

Incest in African American Society in

Sapphire's *Push*

A Thesis

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Attainment of the Degree of

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By

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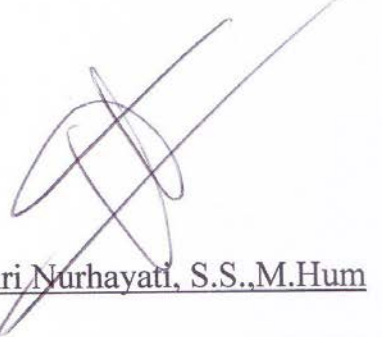
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Menyatakan bahwa karya ilmiah ini adalah hasil pekerjaan saya sendiri. Sepanjang pengetahuan saya, karya ilmiah ini tidak berisi materi yang dituliskan oleh orang lain kecuali bagian-bagian tertentu yang saya ambil sebagai acuan dengan mengikuti tata cara dan etika penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

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Penulis,



Iva Wulandari

MOTTOS

There is no God but Allah... and Muhammad is the messenger

DEDICATIONS

This thesis is especially dedicated to:

- ♥ *Ibu* Sudarsih
- ♥ *Bapak* Subadi
- ♥ My husband dr. Aditya Putra Priyahita
- ♥ *Bapak* dr. H. Wijaya Hadi Suryanto, Sp.Rad and *Mama* Hj. Sri Hartiningsih Handayani, S.E.
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INCEST IN AFRICAN AMERICAN SOCIETY IN SAPPHIRE'S *PUSH*

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to identify causes, effects, and society's response on the incest which happened in African American society portrayed in *Push*. Accordingly, the sociology of literature approach by Swingewood was applied in this research.

This research is qualitative. Content analysis was used as the technique of analysis of the novel. The subject of this research is a novel entitled *Push* written by Sapphire. The data taken from the novel are in the form of phrases, clauses, and sentences showing incest experienced by the main character. The analyzed data are phrases, clauses, and sentences related to the practice of incest in the novel. The researcher collected the data using reading and note taking techniques. The data analysis of this research used the process of data reducing, data displaying, and conclusion drawing. To obtain trustworthiness, the researcher used triangulation technique.

There are three results of this research: (1) The causes of the incest seen in *Push* are related to socio-environment, family-of-origin, family system, and individual psychology; the causes related to socio-environment are the factors related to the people, the place, the neighborhood, the interaction and the sex life style. The causes related to family-of-origin are parents past experiences that will shape the survivor's character into adulthood and affect the vulnerability of incest. The causes related to individual psychology focus on the perpetrator who is authoritative, has less self control, has low self esteem and has poor social skills; (2) the effects of the incest in *Push* are emotional reactions, self perceptions, physical and somatic effects, and interpersonal problems. The effects related to emotional reaction are the symptoms of (a) depression, (b) shame, (c) anger and guilt, and (d) betrayal, loss, and grief. The symptoms of depression are lack of confidence, gloomy mood, losing control, facing troubles in concentrating during the class, and recurrent thoughts of death or suicide. The symptoms of shame are in the form of being an introverted person and being isolated. The symptoms of anxiety and fear are in the form of avoiding anything which reminds them to the abuse such as people, place, and situations related to the occurrence of incest and anxiety about the future. The symptoms of anger and guilt are related to the perpetrator's act, the abuse, and the self powerlessness. The symptoms of betrayal, loss, and grief are related to the feeling of betrayal by the parents, the loss of childhood and teenage phase, the opportunity or chance to reach the bright future, and grief about the abuse. The effects related to physical and somatic effect are headache, stomachache, and obesity. The effects related to interpersonal problems are inability to have a good relation, uncertainty, the problems with parents and other family members, and problems in parenting; (3) the way society response to incest victim makes it even harder for the victim to recover herself from incest trauma. The existence of incest survivor group emphasizes the fact that society is also absent to participate on the recovery of the incest survivor.

Key words: Incest, African American society, *Push*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Children of all ages are vulnerable and at risk to sexual abuse, whether in their homes, their community, or even over the internet (Bolen, 2002: 3). It means that the perpetrator can vary based on the place children get the abuse. In their homes, children are possibly abused by family members such as father, mother, cousin, grandparents, and those to whom they place their trust and those who should take care of them. The perpetrators are also possibly known to the child although they are not family members: babysitter, family's friends, neighbour, and teacher. Some of them are strangers to the child. According to Tower (1989: 103), children risk to sexual abuse because they have less control and personal power than to adults. He explains that children have no authority in a legal and psychological sense. The statements imply that children lack the power to secure their own selves, especially to someone they know. They cannot resist. Thus, it is reasonable if they are in a high vulnerability of the act of sexual abuse.

Child sexual abuse is not a new phenomenon. According to Oates (1990: 1), it has happened throughout history, yet it was not until the 16th century that legislation was enacted in England that began the process of protecting children from sexual abuse: boys were protected from forced sodomy, and girls under the age of ten years

from forcible rape. He further says that by the time of settlement of the United States, sexual prohibitions were becoming more stringent.

Among the forms of child sexual abuse, one which is very worrying is incest. This is because children receive sexual abuse from the people who are supposed to be their protectors. In general, for most people, it is impossibly accepted. According to Bixler (1982: 264), incest disapproval and avoidance have generally been considered by anthropologists as culturally universal. However, the righteousness of this supposed universality is the section on whether or not well-known exceptions can be viewed as factually significant. With that in mind, formally accepted forms of consanguineous relationships are a particularly complicated and yet exposing study. However, Bixler adds exclusion that the Hawaiians, Incas and ancient Egyptians are among the most widely referenced exceptions to the incest taboo.

One of the certain societies which has records of incest and other sexually abusive behaviour phenomena is African American Society. Abney and Priest (in June and Black, 2002: 96-99) state that research concerning childhood sexual victimization in African American communities are rare. The victims tend to cover the cases because the impacts they get for telling the fact are bad for them. According to Abney and Priest, if African Americans do participate in sexual abuse with children, it should be silenced because confessing the abuse may be used to further abolish African Americans from the American mainstream and it can lead to a judgement that they have bad behaviour and attitude especially in sexual acts. The fact that child sexual abuse exists within African American culture comes from

survivors' writing and autobiography, but once they share their experiences, they get no support from others, not even from their own community. Goldman (in Mukherjee and Deb, 2009: 17) notes that "the absolute number of children being sexually abused each year has been almost impossible to ascertain" and that "there does not seem to be agreement on the rate of children being sexually abused." It indicates that the number of cases is actually more than the total cases that can be reported. It implies that children are voiceless victims.

The Department of Health and Human Service or HHS (Barnet et. al., 2001: 108), which compiles statistics from state departments of child welfare, indicates that in 1996, black children, who comprised approximately 15 percent of the minor children in the country, were 28 percent of the reported physical abuse victims and 19 percent of sex abuse victims. Survey data, which do not have the same problem with reporting biases as official statistics, also show that black children have relatively high abuse rates. In 2000, HHS reports the number of cases of sexual abuse higher become 25% from total 879,000 children in America. Unfortunately, only 12 percent of all cases of child abuse were reported (Best et. al., 1999). Just like iceberg phenomena, those percentages of cases are only a few cases from the tremendous cases which factually happen. As it was previously mentioned, the real number is much more than the data that can be recorded. Nevertheless, the numerous recorded cases still indicate that child sexual abuse by someone known by the victim is a terrible crime which exists in society.

Based on the explanation above, incest cannot be understood as a minor problem in society. The tremendous number of cases points out that children who will become the future generation of human beings are heavily endangered. The consequences of incest will destroy every aspect of the victims' lives. The victims will be destroyed psychologically, physically, and emotionally. It will be more dangerous if people have no responsibility and keep silent on this problem. Consequently, incest needs serious attention.

The attention and apprehension about incest that occurs in children also come from the world of literature. There are many writers who postulate incest themes in their novels. They are Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison, Gayle Jones, Maya Angelou, Louise Armstrong, Ramona Lofton, etc. Ramona Lofton who is well known by the pen name Sapphire is a novelist and poet who wrote about social problems affecting the African American community. Her first book, *American Dreams* (1994) is a combination of poetry and prose, and according to Publisher's Weekly it was "one of the strongest debut collections of the 90s." Each of the selections in this book tells the story of the cruel realities of the inner city life in a brutally honest way. Sapphire's second book, a volume of poetry, entitled *Black Wings & Blind Angels* (1999), is telling about a number of topics, one of which is about sexual identity. Sapphire also writes a number of works printed in several anthologies including *High Risk 2: Writings on Sex, Death & Subversions*, *Critical Condition: Women on the Edge of Violence*, and *Women on Women: An Anthology of American Lesbian Short Fiction*. Sapphire's many years of teaching reading to students in the Bronx and Harlem are

represented in her novel *Push* (1996), which won the First Novelist Award from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. Setting in Harlem around 1980s, this is a story of an incest survivor, Claireece Precious Jones.

Based on the explanation above, it is clear that the main problem is not only on sexual harassment, but rather the rape. Children are forced to satisfy the sexual desires of others which are mostly adults. This is a serious problem. Moreover, the victims are children who are physically, emotionally, and psychologically weak and helpless. Horribly, the children are raped by the family member who necessarily ensures their protection and security.

B. Identification of the Problem

There are many interesting problems presented by Sapphire in her novel, *Push*. Since the novel exposes about incest, it is challenging to analyze the taboo phenomenon from many perspectives. First, *Push* can be analyzed from the issue of child abuse. The practice of child abuse toward Precious in Jones' family is not only done by Carl, but also done by Mary. When people talk about incest, it cannot be separated from the discussion about the victim: her way to survive, her psychology, her efforts in seeking for help. Moreover, it is also challenging to analyze incest from the perpetrator's point of view to see his motivation to do that, his feeling when he rapes his daughter, and also his psychological conditions. A psychoanalysis is appropriate to analyze this problem. It is also interesting to focus the issue on the

mother of incestuous family in contributing the occurrence of incest. However, society and human interaction cannot be forgotten to be discussed when talking about incest since the taboo exists in society. How society gives contribution to the occurrence is also worth discussing.

C. The Focus of the Problem

There are various issues growing when people talk about incest in African American society. There are also various approaches which are related to the number of issues. Therefore, it is not possible to analyze all of the issues using the entire approaches. Thus, to limit the discussion in this study, the researcher focuses on the portrayal of an incest victim, named Precious, that is explored by Sapphire in her work, *Push*. The analysis especially focuses on the causes, the effects and society's response toward incest and the victim. The study uses sociology of literature theory to analyze the novel. This theory seeks the mirrors and portrayal between the world inside the literary work and the real world.

D. The Formulation of the Problem

1. What are the causes of incest in African American society portrayed in *Push*?
2. What are the impacts of incest in African American society portrayed in *Push*?

3. How does the society response incest portrayed in *Push*?

E. Objectives of the Problem

1. To find the triggering factors of incest in African American society portrayed in *Push*.
2. To identify the impacts of incest in African American society portrayed in *Push*.
3. To analyze the society's response on incest portrayed in *Push*.

F. The Significance of the Problem

The significance of the study is divided into two points:

1. Theoretically, the study findings could contribute ideas to the study in sociology of literature approach.
2. Practically, the study findings can be useful to:
 - a. English Department

This study is expected to give some contribution to literary theory analysis, especially in sociology of literature related to incest theme. It is also hoped to give new knowledge related to incest in African American society.

- b. Other Researchers

It can motivate and support them to analyze the same topic related to child sexual abuse, especially incest abuse in African American society.

CHAPTER II LITERATURE THEORY

The thesis focuses on incest in African American society, especially on the teenage incest survivor in Harlem community in 1980s. To make good understanding on the causes, effects and the society's view on incest, it is important to understand sociology of literature theory. In short, the topic that is significant to be understood is sociology of literature, incest, and Harlem as the social setting of Sapphire's *Push*.

A. Sociology of Literature

Speaking about sociology and literature, at first, each definition is worth examining. Swingewood (in Laurenson and Swingewood, 1971: 11) states that sociology is "essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists." In short, sociology is the study about men and their socioenvironment.

Sociology regulates how people adapt to the environment and to other people and how it is conditioned by a given society, cultural learning. It is also concerned on how an individual accepts and understands the social rules that exist in the community. These sociological aspects cannot be separated from the concept of social stability, continuity between social groups, and how one recognizes the social institutions of both the benefits and rights. Besides, sociology is also able to explain how social change can happen and how it affects the changes brought about in the

social structure, for example, from feudalism to capitalism (Swingewood in Laurenson and Swingewood, 1971: 12). This field is trying to bridge the gap between the science and the reality.

As with sociology, according to Swingewood (in Laurenson and Swingewood, 1971: 12), literature is concerned with man's social world, his adaptation to it, and his will to change it. He also states that the novel, as the primary literary genre of industrial society, can be seen as an appropriate effort to re-create the social world of man's relation with his family, with the state, with his politics; it also portrays his roles within the family and other institutions, the conflicts and tensions between groups and social classes. Swingewood (in Laurenson & Swingewood, 1971: 11) states that "at the most basic level, that of content, sociology and literature share a similar conspectus." By that description, it can be seen that the sociology and literature are closely related. Thus, how both of them harmonize in literary work, such as in a novel can also be explained.

In addition, Hoggart (in Laurenson & Swingewood, 1971: 13) clarifies that in the novel the readers are clearly presented to a background of social, political and economic textures as a package of sociology. However, of course literature gives deeper meaning on human's life. Literature cannot only be read on the surface. It goes beyond the text, for example it can show how men and women deal with their feelings. By that example, a red-line can be drawn that literature and sociology are not entirely disjunctive disciplines but, on the contrary, accomplish each other in people's understanding of society; historically they have inclined to remain apart.

The other purpose of sociology of literature, as suggested by Lowenthal (in Laurensen and Swingewood, 1971: 16), is to discover the ‘core of meaning’ which one finds at the center of different works of literature and which proposes many aspects of thought and feeling on subjects as varied as social work, class, religion, love, nature, and art. In other words, sociology of literature can dig up the hidden meaning from the works of literature and it linkages literature with the various subjects and aspects around people in society.

B. Incest

1. The Definitions of Incest

Thorman (in Molako, 1999: 13) states that there is no single definition of incest. It varies from culture to culture. He also strengthens his argument by giving examples of how incest is seen by different, certain societies. The royal family of the last three centuries BC, of Greek descent, presented numerous examples of marriage between closely related persons, and for this reason Egypt has acquired a reputation of being almost the cradle of incest. “This was supported by the very literal interpretation by the early Egyptologists of the words ‘sister’ and ‘brother’, used among lovers and marriage people” (Manniche, 1987: 29). For Kalanga, a certain society of Java and Yakuts, a certain society of Siberia, incest is regarded as a sexual intimacy between family members that can bring them fortune and prosperity to the daughter and son or their family. In contrast, an East African society, Akamba, strongly forbids sex between family members because they believe that incest brings great disasters for

them, such as flood and crop failure. It can be concluded that the occurrence of incest cannot be seen from one point of view, but practically it cannot be separated from the history and belief of a certain society.

Pointing out child sexual abuse, Schatky and Green (1988: xi) explain that it covers the exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult. A narrow form of child sexual abuse is incest, which refers to the sexual exploitation of the child by another family member. They also explain that the term incest comes from the Latin word *incestum*, which means low or unchaste. The prevailing definition of incest is cohabitation between persons related to a degree wherein marriage would be forbidden by law. However, they say, in its general practice incest also includes stepparents and relatives by marriage and sexual acts, such as touching, exhibitionism, and fondling, as well as intercourse.

Different approaches lead to different definitions of incest. Thorman (in Molako, 1994: 14) clarifies that social theorists define incest as an act that causes confusion about the role of family in society. However, according to Thorman, feminist argues that incest is a form of sexual abuse, generally perpetrated by men, as patriarchal society doctrine believes in which men have power over women and children. Feminist analyses state incest as an act of male violence, specifically an act of rape. The various forms of renaming incest were burst out by experts. Butler (1995) termed it 'incestuous assault' while Ward (1984) called it 'Father-Daughter rape' (in Molako, 1999: 14).

According to various approaches and definitions above, it can be concluded that incest is an act of sexual abuse that exists in family environment. It can be done by two people who have bloodline or people who are in line as relatives of the nuclear family.

2. Factors Supporting the Occurrence of Incest

There is no single factor of incestuous abuse. All families have possibilities and potential factors as an institution of the place where the act of incest exists. The degree of incest vulnerability is based upon the various factors.

According to Trepper and Barrett (1986) in their book *Systemic Treatment of Incest: A Therapeutic Handbook*, there are four major vulnerability factor areas supporting the occurrence of incest. These are (1) socioenvironmental factors, (2) family-of-origin factors, (3) individual psychological factors, and (4) family system factors.

a. Socioenvironmental factors

According to Trepper and Barrett (1986: 24), the culture and society contribute significantly to the way people think and act, that is, the way people organize their lives, develop themselves, and express their specific behaviours under specific conditions. In understanding closely the occurrence of incest, people also have to understand the cultural framework surrounding male-female relationships, the messages provided about sexual abuse and sexuality, the types and amount of chronic stressors and social interaction between the family and these environmental influences. There is a number of socioenvironmental dimension estimated as the

contributing factors to a family's practice of incest: (a) acceptance of male supremacy and power, (b) adherence to the differential manner in which men and women traditionally display affection, (c) living in a community that tacitly accepts incest or other forms of child abuse, (d) social isolation, and (d) chronic stress. Shortly, these factors can increase a family vulnerability to the acts of incest. Thus, it can be concluded that the poor and uncondusive socioenvironment potentially reinforce the vulnerability of the occurrence of incest.

b. Family-of-origin

Kaufman and Zigler (in Trepper and Barrett, 1986: 24) assert that the current reviews have countered the old belief that “abusing parents were usually abused children themselves.” However, few experts hesitate the impact the family of origin plays in the development of parental and marital style. Bandura (in Trepper & Barret, 1986, 24) declares “that is, people learn from their parents how to act with their spouses, and how to parent their own children.” in short, children always imitate what is done by the parents.

Furthermore, Bentovim (in Molako, 1999: 23) argues that the perpetrator’s historical background has a significant impact on the occurrence of incest. In the research, he discovers that a number of their respondents had grown up in families where sexual abuse or physical abuse existed. Those acts were done by the perpetrator or other members. Childhood experiences also contribute to the propensity of sexual abuse. Faller (in Molako, 1999: 23) points out that the former incest victim becomes a perpetrator in an effect to cope with her unbelievable sexual

traumatic experience, by taking the abusive role. De Young (in Molako, 1999: 23) also clarifies that experiences like physical abuse also give a contribution on the occurrence of incest. In other words, someone who has a background incidence on sexual harassment should be **wary** because of the potential recurrence of the incident he/she has.

c. Family system factors

Molako (1999: 23) cites some experts' arguments about the significance of family system factors supporting the occurrence of incest. According to Thorman (1983), incest issue has long received attention from theorists. They try to answer questions on why children are sexually abused by their parents, people who are supposed to be their protectors and care-takers. In driving the conclusion the feminists focus on the male perpetrator, while other theorists focus on the mother of incestuous family and the role of children in incest (Blume 1990). Spies (1993: 202) concludes that the family in which incest happens has a role in causing and maintaining incest.

Trepper and Barrett (1986: 24) stated that although some have argued that intra-family child sexual abuse is not as different from extra-family child sexual abuse as family system therapists would wish people to believe, and the family itself portrays another whole system involved in the origin, maintenance, and ultimately amelioration of incest. The family systems factors are regarded to contribute to a family's vulnerability to incest including the family's abusive style, the structure of the family, and the communication style of the family.

From the explanation, it can be concluded that intra family has a significant role in maintaining incest. Furthermore, the relationship among family members and how a system runs in the family can be a mirror on how much deviation occurs in a family, in particular the occurrence of incest.

d. Individual psychological factors

Trepper and Barret (1986: 25) explain that individual personality and psychology disorder assist to a family's vulnerability to incest, principally when a particular of these characteristics in one person interact in specific ways with those of another. For instance, authoritative style of an incestuous father will contribute more significantly to the family's vulnerability if his daughter has a passive, dependent personality style. Furthermore, according to Blume (in Molako, 1999: 17), perpetrators use their power in abusing their own children. Children's emotional and psychological dependency toward their parents are used by the perpetrators to exploit their children's sexuality. In short, the individual characteristics and personalities of family members affect the vulnerability of the occurrence of incest. The way father leads the family also give the big roles in increasing the vulnerability of incest.

According to Faller (in Molako, 1999: 21), incest perpetrators are people who have deviant sexual patterns that make them sexually attracted to children. They tend to have more stereotyped views of sex role behaviour and lack empathy to children. The perpetrators view the child unrealistically and most of them also involve in alcohol or drug abuse which make sexual abuse increase (Driver et. al. in Molako, 1999: 21). These perpetrators feel powerless in their outside world or in their adult

relationships. They abuse children in order to meet the needs related to approval and acceptance and to enhance the sense of personal worth and self-esteem (Molako, 1999: 21). Faller (in Molako, 1999: 23) adds that they become perpetrators in effort to cope with their traumatic experience. Horton et. al. (in Molako, 1999: 23) strengthen this by stating that sexually abusive fathers victimise others in trying to combat feelings of powerlessness and become the powerful one.

3. The Consequences of Incest

Many consequences of incest in the childhood age become more complex as time goes by. There are short and long term effects toward the victims. The long term effects of the symptom affect the whole life of the victims.

According to Russell (in Molako, 1999: 34), short term effects of incest include living constantly fear of another occurrence of the abuse, having feelings of anger and hostility toward the perpetrator, and suffering from depression that comes from feeling helpless and without any hope of stopping the abuse. He also notes that 70% of incest victims experience fear, 50% of them experience anger and hostility towards the perpetrator, 35% suffer from depression and 25% feel isolated from the rest of the world. Furthermore, in her research, Cole (1994: 27) finds that survivors often report somatic complaints such as headaches, stomach pains and sexually transmitted diseases. However, Cole (1994) quotes researchers such as Goldstein (1987) who argues that incest victims suffer from less incest-related physical problems not

because they always exist, but as a way of getting attention or as an expression of their feelings of helplessness.

Battis (in Curtois, 2010: 39) in his book *Healing the Incest Wound: Adult Survivors in Therapy* classified the numerous initial and long-term effects of incest into six broad categories, namely: (a) emotional reactions, (b) self-perceptions, (c) physical and somatic effects, (d) effects on sexual functioning, (e) interpersonal relating, and (f) social functioning.

a. Emotional reactions

Research on adult survivors of incest clarifies broad effects of outrage in childhood on adjustment later in life. According to Curtois (in Battis, 2004: 40), the long-term effects of incest reveal themselves in the adult's emotional reactions, self-images, physical/somatic perceptions, sexual functioning, and interpersonal relationships. Furthermore, Kritsberg (in Battis, 2004: 40) explains that 'emotional flooding' may occur when a survivor's rebuttal tentatively collapse, causing them to feel a tremendous emotional distress, the source of which they may not even be aware. In other words, emotional reactions take place over a period of time. They can affect survivor's behavior, attitude, and sense of well-being. They come spontaneously and the intensity and ways they are expressed will vary depending on the survivor's personal experience, general mental health, and other stress factors in his/her lives. This is true for both adult survivor and children survivor.

According to Van der Kolk (in Battis, 2004: 40), emotional reactions consist of depression, shame, anxiety and fear, anger and rage, guilt, betrayal, loss, and

difficulties in sustaining positive experiences. They are common emotional reactions associated with incest and non-incestuous abuse.

1) Depression

The first long term effect experienced by victims of incest is depression. This is confirmed by Russell (in Molako, 1999: 34) in his study. He reveals that nearly 70% of incest victims suffered from severe depression. This effect could impact the willingness to experiment incest victim's suicidality, drug abuse or prostitution. Beck (2008: 8) explains that depression may now be defined in terms of a specific alteration in mood such as sadness, loneliness, and apathy. It raises a negative self-concept associated with self-reproaches and self-blame. Furthermore, it comes in regressive and self-punitive wishes such as desires to escape, hide, or die. In short, depression involves the number and severity of symptoms. People who face depression will have some difficulties in continuing with ordinary work and social activities.

2) Shame

Feiring (in Paludi 2010: 170) states that shame comes out because of an eagerness to hide the harm from exposure to censure from others. Shame causes many troubles within the self-development of an incest survivor, including fear of intimacy, fear of disclosure and anxiety about self-value (Tangney and Dearing in Paludi, 2010: 170). Shame is a piece of emotional breakdown that is done by incest, and it contributes an element of the person's identity (Hunter in Paludi, 2010: 170). Furthermore, according to Paludi (2010), the long effect of shame toward incest

survivor is “the longer shame persists, the greater the change that sexual difficulties and dating aggression may surface. It may also lead to intimacy problems, such as fear of intimacy, if shame continues well into adulthood.” It can be summed up that shame comes as the reaction to hide a traumatic event from others. It affects the ways people interact with others and potentially contribute to change the person’s identity.

3) Anxiety and fear

According to Briere (in Geer, 1992: 440), the high level of fear and anxiety has been reported to be usual in clinical samples of both men and women who were sexually victimized as children. He added his finding that both male and female victims are inclined to report higher levels of anxiety than their nonabused partners. Sedney and Brooks (in Geer, 1992: 440) strengthen Briere’s finding by declaring their finding that victims of interfamilial sexual harassment, but not victims of extra familial harassment, are more likely to report anxiety and nervousness than are nonvictims.

4) Anger and guilt

According to Spielberger (1999), anger is an emotional form that can range in intensity from mild irritation to extreme anger. He says that anger so completely dominates someone’s affective experience that they can seldom feel joy, contentment, or other positive emotions. Few of these persons believe that they have willingly chosen to feel angry, irritable, annoyed, and mean-spirited. According to Bass and Davis (in Hall and Lloyd, 1993: 192) for many survivors, anger is an emotion that has been hidden behind feelings of guilt and depression. Anger has probably been denied

or turned in a self-destructive way. According to Justice (in Molako, 1999: 35), “the negative self concept of incest’s victim comes from years of feeling of anger and guilt”. The extreme anger towards themselves can also be expressed by mutilating themselves as a form of punishment for having failed to stop the assault and guilt feeling responsible for the incest (Thorman in Molako, 1999: 35). Then, Nathanson (1992: 4) gives short explanation that guilt refers to punishment for wrongdoing for violation of some sorts of rule or internal law. To sum up, children who feel angry and guilty will not simply outgrow their feeling. It is also difficult for them to be confronted with parents, especially when guilt and anger results from sexual abuse.

5) Betrayal, loss and grief

According to Carlson (1989: 150) in her book *Rape, Incest, and Sexual Harassment: a guide for helping*, sexual harassment often causes the feeling of betrayal, specifically when the victim had loved or had trusted her abuser. The fear of future betrayals often makes a survivor cautious in all relationships. Moreover, perpetrators also usually urge their targets in some kinds of interaction prior to their abusive behaviour. According to Carlson (1989: 150), incest mostly implicates several kinds of betrayal:

... not only does the perpetrator take advantage of familial and emotional ties, but the survivor feels betrayed by others as well, especially by her mother. Even when family members do not know the abuse, the survivors often feel that they fail to prevent or contribute to the abuse. Perpetrators often wittingly displace

their victim's feelings of betrayal onto others, telling the victim child that the sex is necessary because the mother is not "doing her job".

Meanwhile, Draucker (in Battiss, 2004: 42) states that the survivor may bewail the loss of childhood, loss of physical and psychological integrity, and ability to trust others. It can be concluded that the victims of incest feel the loss of their childhood and the loss of their growth phase as well as normal children in general.

6) Difficulties in sustaining positive experience

The adult survivors mostly have a 'trauma-based worldview', in which they do not expect bad occurrences. Salter (in Battiss, 2004: 42) declares that even when life goes well they do not reach confidence but become frightened to enjoy anything, for fear that something pitiful might happen. Furthermore, they may oscillate between feelings of rage, deep grief, anger and sorrow, but they may also be incapable to feel the wider range of human emotional experiences.

b. Self Perception

The worst view the survivor has of the self during traumatic dissociation tends to become the dominant view of the self (Spiegel and Cardena, 1990). Battis (2004: 47) divided self perception in three points: perception regarding the self, perception regarding the abuse, and perception regarding the perpetrator.

1) the self

The long-term effect of incest toward the incest victim is the victim's concept of self-image (Battiss, 2004). Negative identity can be developed by an incest victim as the child's positive feeling of self becomes degraded by sexual trauma. Some incest

survivors attempt to redeem for negative feelings about the self during childhood by always attempting to be ‘very good’, in the hope that the abuse will stop. More feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness and isolation may be felt if the child reveals the abuse and is not regarded or is accused (Curtois in Battiss, 2004: 48). When the accusation is internalised, “the adult survivor tend to take on the responsibility for what did or did not happen, for what the survivor did and for what could not be done” (Salter in Battiss, 2004: 48).” The incest victims may feel that they “should have” avoided and stopped the abuse from happening, and “should have” converted the surroundings around the abuse, for example, that the survivor should have avoided interaction between the partners and them, or should have prevented siblings from being abused.

Moreover, the worst judgment the survivor has of the self during ‘traumatic dissociation’ tends to become a major view of the self (Spiegel and Cerdana in Battiss, 2004: 49). From childhood, the abusive child may also feel that body is only an available object of other people’s attraction. In stupendous cases, survivors may view themselves as sexual objects (Kritsberg, in Battiss, 2004: 49). According to Russell’s study with incest’s victim, 90% of the victims have a negative self-concept as the accumulation from feelings of self hatred, inferiority and worthlessness (in Molako, 1999: 35). It can be concluded that sexual trauma lead the erosion of self confidence and perception. The survivor tends to develop negative self-perception toward the self.

2) the abuse

In addition, children turn to be the sexual abuse's victims because of their appearance, weakness, or because of their gender. A particular example of the abuse belief is like a belief that "girls drive men wild" (Salter in Battiss, 2004: 49). If the child's body react with pleasure to the sexual contact, it may drive further wrong beliefs. Victims could incorrectly believe they had an enthusiasm and passion to follow in the behaviours (Salter in Battiss, 2004: 49).

Finally, an adult survivor, who as a child is reacted by "freezing" rather than revolt the violator, might incorrectly interpret that reaction as a signal that such survivor desire to be mistreated (Salter in Barrett, 2004: 49). There may be some overlap assuming the cognitive errors that adults have about themselves, the abuse and the abuser (Barrett, 2004: 49). In other words, the incest survivors tend to develop perception that assault happens because of their weakness because as children, they have no power to resist the abusers.

3) the perpetrators

A particular cognitive error regarding the violator is one in which the incest victim assumes that the violator could not control his or her own behaviour (Salter in Barrett, 2004: 49). Salter clarifies that the principal difference between the violator and the victim is that the former sees merely his or her own necessity, while the victim has no regard for his/her own necessity. Salter states "Offenders minimize their acts; victims minimize themselves" (Shelter in Barrett, 2004: 49). It can be simplified that the perception of the incest survivor toward the self, the abuse, and the perpetrators affect significantly to the long life of them. The negative perception

toward the self, mixed with the traumatic feeling of the survivor, leads them to blame the self and every factor related to the traumatic events around them.

c. Physical and somatic effects

There are myriad medical conditions which are reported to be examples of psycho-somatic reactions. Gastrointestinal, genito-urinary discomfort or pain, and headaches, as well as diffuse aches and pains, are related to sexual abuse. These physical effects may be associated with the type and locus of abuse and represent themselves immediately in conversation symptoms, including gagging, choking, suffering from nausea, vomiting, which would be as an effect of being ‘choked, forced into oral sex or the swallowing of semen’ (Curtois in Barrett, 2004: 49).

During the sexual abuse, the victims learn to ignore their bodies and personal needs. In extreme conditions, the body is so alienated that the incest survivor does not feel any impulse to rest, eat, or sleep. “Eating disorders, including loss of appetite and weight gain are therefore a few of the physical reactions develop in response to trauma” (Curtois in Barrett, 2004: 50). Moreover, Curtois (in Barret, 2004: 50) explains that survivors

have also had epileptic-like seizures, perceptual disturbances, speech and movement inhibition, and the repetition of the trauma, as experienced in dream, fantasies, and sudden behavioural changes. Other somatic complaints generally reported include tinnitus, high blood pressure, migraine headaches, tempero-mandibular jaw and frozen joints.

Some incest survivors have problems with a pattern of disturbed-eating. However, it is mostly known that eating disorder and obesity are the problems of

common people. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) estimates that 0.5 to 3.7 percent of all females will suffer from anorexia in their lifetime, 1.1 to 4.2 % will suffer from bulimia, and 2 to 5 % of Americans suffer from eating disorder (National Institute of Health, 2008). Nevertheless, a victim of sexual abuse is highly potential to develop disturbed-eating pattern than one who has not (Lundberg-Love in Paludi, 2010: 169). Specifically, the incest survivors are more likely to develop an eating disorder than those who are raped outside of the family (Baldo in Paludi, 2010: 169). Obesity is an overage amount of body fat. Researches show that women who have history of sexual abuse during childhood are twice likely to get obesity as adults (Rhode in Paludi, 2010: 169).

d. The effect on sexual functioning

Incest survivor may have a negative effect on sexual behaviour in adulthood. “Comparison studies have discovered that incest survivors have more sexual problems than individuals who have not been abused” (Curtois in Barret, 2004: 55). The impact of the sexual abuse may influence various aspects of sexual functioning, ranging from the loss of sexual desire for intimacy to extravagant sexual contact. Some incest victims experience trouble in relationship until they become involved in committed intimate relationships. They feel trapped to meet the demands of their partner’s sexual desire (Curtois in Barret 2004: 55). Furthermore, Barret (2004: 55-56) mentions the specific sexual problems and dysfunctions that may occur in adulthood, including sexual desire disorders, arousal disorders or impaired sexual

arousal, orgasmic disorders, dyspareunia or coital pain, vaginismus, and feelings of guilt during sexual contact.

e. Interpersonal relating

According to Curtois (in Barret, 2004: 57), incest survivors may have difficulties to relate and trust people as a result of molestation. They also have feelings of insecurity (Hall and Lloyd in Barret, 2004: 57). Furthermore, based on Curtois, interpersonal problems develop in one or more of the four categories relating to relationships, namely:

- 1) General relationship difficulties with both men and women,
- 2) Uncertainty as experienced in intimate or committed relationships,
- 3) Problems with parents and other family members and authority figures,
and,
- 4) Difficulties with parenting.

Hall and Lloyd (in Battis, 2004: 58) view that the incest survivor may prefer to lead an alienated life, also within the context of the family. This withdrawal offers the survivor's secret of the sexual abuse to remain unbroken, ensuring the fear that other people will gain knowledge of and blame the client. The sense of being different makes the survivor difficult to have a close relationship (Hall and Lloyd in Battis, 2004: 58). Isolation, antisocial behaviour, and rebellion, as well as over-functioning, and compulsive social interaction, are social side-effects of incest declared by Curtois (in Battis, 2004: 58). These interpersonal disturbance affect the aspects of the survivor's life. The female survivor's own unresolved incest abuse experience may

avoid her from developing physical and emotional closeness with her children (Curtois in Battis, 2004: 59). Hall and Lloyd (in Battis, 2004: 59) strengthen those statement by explaining that mother-survivors are frightened to dismay or show physical affection towards their own children, as they are afraid this will be viewed as abusive. To sum up, the survivors tend to face difficulties in having relationship with their partner because their interpersonal closeness with others is overshadowed by fears and memory of harassment.

f. The effect of incest on social functioning

Troubles experienced in interpersonal levels enlarge to social milieus. The survivors face social judgement about their activities, specifically which is related to their behaviours that are socially inappropriate and/or illegal. Examples of such behaviours include re-victimization, under-achievement, medical procedures, and substance abuse and addiction.

1) Reactions to medical procedures

There are myriad medical procedures that lead feelings of apprehension for the incest survivor. Being accepted to hospital may cause responses in which the survivor feels lack of privacy, and or lack of control. Undergoing difficult medical procedures, often examined by male doctors, may result in 'feelings' of being trapped. Cervical smear tests, internal vaginal examinations, pregnancy and fertility investigations may bring about flashback and acute panic attack (Hall and Lloyd in Barret, 2004: 60).

2) Under-achievement

Research reports serve the fact that incest survivors are under-achieve in educational and employment areas (Hall and Lloyd in Barret, 2004). This may be a result of feelings of low self-esteem, shame and chronic thought of self-doubt (Barret, 2004: 60). As a result, they often feel unwanted and worthless at school and at work.

3) Sexual re-victimisation

Revictimisation is a condition when a person who has experienced sexual abuse in childhood gets the same treatment again in adolescence / adulthood (Widom, 2008). According to Paludi (2010) being aware of the grater risk of revictimisation is important because it gives some control back to the victims. When they understand their risk for revictimisation, survivors are able to reclaim control in their lives.

Furthermore, Arata (in Paludi, 2010: 170-171) says that many studies found significant relationships between incest and revictimisation, both physical and sexual, in adulthood in men and women. In fact, sexual abuse survivors are two to three times more likely to be revictimised than persons who have not been sexually abused as children, and the chances increase with the presence of physical contact during the abuse. Shortly, people should pay attention on the possibility of the one who has victimized in the past. The victimized of the past has a vulnerability of being the perpetrator on that day or on the future.

4) Substance abuse and addiction

Substance abuse and addiction have long been known as a social problem. Adult survivors have been recognised to form addictions to numerous things, including sex

(Heitter and Vought in Battis, 2004: 61), drugs, gambling, dangerous situation, alcohol, or food, in attempt to numb their feelings (Bass and Davis in Battis, 2004: 61).

C. Harlem in 1980s

Harlem is a large neighbourhood within the northern section of the New York city. Since the 1920s, Harlem has been known as a primary African-American residential, cultural and business centre. Black residents began to arrive at Harlem in 1905. In the 1920s and 1930s, West and Central Harlem were the focus of the “Harlem Renaissance”, a flooding of artistic work in the American black community. However, rates of poverty and crime increased significantly with job losses in the time of the Great Depression and the deindustrialization of New York City after World War II (Anonymous, 2007).

A line of culture symbols range at the center of Harlem’s redevelopment conflicts. Representations of Harlem are suspended between the tragedy and glory of the past. These representations obviously determine attitudes about who and what should be the future of the cultural capital of black America. However, it is not an easy, or automatic, embrace of race that emphasizes these symbols. The dispute about the buildings, monuments, names, and historic designation, for instance, also give rise to branchy thinking (Tailor, 2002: 54).

At time when economic and political changes seemed to avoid such a move, a “return to the city” movement by blacks as gentry in a black community presented an

irresistible benefit for examining the nuanced realities of class and race in post-civil rights America. The arrival of middle-class blacks gave way to other conflicts. A lack of consensus and community indecision over the years **had** combined to continue a long-standing collective worry that “the whites are coming, the whites are coming.” Over time, this fear has become one “official reality” defining, in racial terms, a crisis facing Harlem. The community was strengthened as a collective body when new life is breathed into old enemies – “whites”, “outsiders,” “the city.” Caught in a familiar tangle of “us” and “them,” Harlem girds itself against vaguely defined villains (Tailor, 2002: 59).

Mallory (2011: 342-342) mentions that speculative overbuilding of the housing stock helped change New York City’s Harlem from a well-to-do white streetcar suburb of the late nineteenth century into a crowded black ghetto by the early twentieth century. A significant turning point came during the economic depression of 1904-1905. Harlem became the district which is predominated by African American by the 1920s. The Harlem Renaissance marked a great creative efflorescence by black artists, musicians, and poets during the 1920s. The raise of the “New Negro” and a black bourgeoisie made Harlem a symbol of previously unimagined luxury, success, and cultural mystique.

Johnson et.al. (2006: 115-139), in *Journal of National Institutes of Health*, stated that numerous African American families have struggled for generations with poverty. Entering the 1980s, many African American families faced shocking structural challenges in poor inner-city areas. Massey and Denton (1993) present a

complete analysis of the increasing hypersegregation of African Americans and the historical forces behind this phenomenon. After World War I and continuing into the 1960s, the migration of African Americans was massive. They migrated to cities to pursue industrial jobs. They were forced into dilapidated neighbourhoods through violence, few increasingly crowded, restrictive covenants (from 1900 until 1948 Supreme Court decision), and discriminatory practices by real estate agents.

Furthermore, based on a broad literature review, Small and Newman (2001) identify the progressive concentration of poverty during the 1970s and into the 1980s, especially among African Americans, as primarily the result of three phenomena: black middle-class flight, residential discrimination (specifically against less wealthy African Americans), and the departure of low-skilled jobs from Northeast and Midwest cities. Economically, the 1970s was a difficult period of inner-city families (Kasarda, 1993): there were a recession, many of the employers that remained in the North moved to suburban areas placing them out of the range of public-transportation for inner-city residents, manufacturing plants move to the sunbelt and abroad, and the new economy emphasized advanced education and computer literacy. Many African Americans were left unqualified and unemployed for emerging opportunities.

Poverty and long-term joblessness have been associated with a constellation of other negative effects (Anderson: 1999): poor physical and mental health, overcrowded housing, despair, family dissolution, post-traumatic stress disorder, school dropout, teen pregnancy, interpersonal violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and abuse, among others. It made the condition of African Americans worse.

The fact that the highest prevalence rate of child sexual abuse is geographically found in Africa raises a question about the factors supporting the occurrence of child sexual abuse, especially the act of incest in African-American society, whether they bring the sexual behaviours from their land or it is related to the trauma of slavery and poverty they face since their arrival in America. The long history of African-American society's experiences related to sexual abuse treatment and behaviour makes that theme popular in African-American literature. Spiller (in Yoshikawa, 2008: 24) explains the interest with incest in African-American literature by turning to history, arguing that because of slavery, the "romance" of African American family comprises the finding and regaining of the lost children. An African American child is not permitted to take her father's name under the laws of slavery. As a result, Spillers claims, "the African father is figuratively banished; fatherhood, at best a cultural courtesy, since only mother knows for sure, is not a social fiction into which he enters". Slavery divorces the figure of the African American father from his family, and the theme of incest, as Spiller (in Yoshikawa, 2008: 24) said, reflects this loss:

If 'family', on this historic occasion, describes, for all intents and purposes, a site of interdiction and denial, we could go so far as to say that the mark of incestuous desire and enactment – a concentrated carnality – speaks for its losses, confusions, and, above all else, its imposed abeyance of order and degree.

Historically, African American children are rarely to live in a two-parent household. “Since emancipation and up until 1960, the percentage had been roughly stable at about 70%, continually below the steady 90% level recorded for white children” (Ruggles, 1994). Jarret and Burton (1999) confirm the use of extended kin networks among low-income African American households in the late 1980s.

D. A Short Introduction to Sapphire

Ramona Lofton, better known with her pen name Sapphire, was born in 1950 in Fort Orr, California. She grew up in a middle class family which everything run normal, but on the surface. Being a daughter of an army sergeant father and a member of Women’s Army Corp mother, Sapphire had to relocate several time to various cities, states, and countries following her parents. In the age of thirteen, Sapphire had to face the fact that her mother became the victim of alcoholism and consequently brought her mother’s life departed. Her mother died in 1983. In the same year, Sapphire’s brother, who was then homeless, was killed in a street park (Harrett et. al., 2012: par. 1).

According to Harrell et.al. (2013), in 1970s, Sapphire went to San Francisco City College majoring first in chemistry and then switching to dance. She immediately dropped out to become a hippie and moved to New York in 1977 for several odd jobs, including topless dancing and housekeeping. In the early 1980s, she began to write poetry. Sapphire ultimately returned to school and graduated with honors in the

degree of modern dance in 1993. Since graduation, she taught reading to students in the Bronx and Harlem and also enrolled in a graduate school in Brooklyn College.

Since teaching for Bronx and Harlem School, Sapphire starts to have interest in writing. Based on her experience living in Bronx and Harlem and teaching the students who have problems in their life, especially those who are the victims of abuse, Sapphire concerns her writing on the issues of Black racial discrimination and sexual abuse. Her first book, *American Dreams*, was published by Vintage Publishing in 1994. *American Dreams* is a compilation of prose and poetry. *Publisher's Weekly* reported it as one of the strongest debut collections of the '90s. This book tells the story of the harsh and brutal realities of inner city life in a cruel way. One of the controversial poems in *American Dreams* is entitled *Wild Thing*. The poem told the story of a 13 year-old rapist. After the publication of her first book, Sapphire began her serious career as a writer. Her efforts made her win the MacArthur Scholarship in Poetry and Downtown Magazine's Year of the Poet III Award in 1994. This is a sign that she is a talented writer (Harriet et. al., 2013).

Harrell et. al. (2013) wrote that Sapphire's second book is a volume of poetry entitled *Black Wings & Blind Angels*. It was published in 1999. In this book, Sapphire addresses a number of topics including sexual identity, police brutality, alcoholic mother, and her relationship with her abusive father. Sapphire has also had a number of works printed in several anthologies including *Critical Condition: Women of the Edge of Violence*, *High Risk 2: Writing on Sex, Death & Subversions*, and *Women on Women: An Anthology of American Lesbian Short Fiction*. In her writing, Sapphire

tried to snatch her audience and bring them to an unpredictable world of unfortunate reality. By her works, she tried to lift up some society's major issues while still entertaining her readers.

Sapphire's first novel, *Push*, published in 1996, tells the story of a 16-year-old incest survivor, Claireece Precious Jones, who is raped by her father and abused by her mother. Precious is pregnant with her father's child for the second time. *Push* got good response from the readers. Moreover, *Push* awakes the awareness of people toward child abuse, especially incest. In 1997 Sapphire won both the Book-of-Month-Club Stephen Crane Award for First Fiction and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's First Novelist Award for the highly praised of her novel *Push* (Harrell et. al.: 2013). Sapphire admitted herself as bisexual and confessed to being sexually abused by her own father, and abandoned by her mother at the age of 13. However, the story, *Push*, is not autobiographical. She said that the level of abuse she suffered was not nearly as extreme as in the novel, and there is no character in the story, not even the teacher, who is based on her. Actually, Precious is a character created from the real-life story she chanced while teaching for seven years in adult-literacy programme in Harlem from 1987 until 1993 (Anonymous, 2010). The other uniqueness of the case of incest in *Push* rather than the other similar stories is that Sapphire concentrates not at the trauma memory, but also on the recovery time of the main character. *Push* also exposes society's response toward incest survivor.

E. Previous Research Findings

There are at least two previous research findings which use sociology of literature theory. The first one is “*Racial Discrimination in Childress’ Florence as a Social Problem between the White and the Black Americans: A Sociology of Literature Approach*” written by Christina Sriwulandari. The second one is “*The Bluest Eye: A Portrayal of Child Abuse in African American Society in the Early Twentieth Century*” written by Lilin Praharani Cima. Sriwulandari’s research aims to analyze issues of racial discrimination and its impacts. Thus, Lilin’s research aims to identify forms, causes, and impacts of child abuse happening to African American children.

From those two researches, this study is closely related to Lilin’s research. While Lilin concentrates on the case of child abuse in general, this study aims to specify the research on the case of incest, which is an example of the forms of child abuse, this study identifies causes, effects, and society’s view of incest which happen in African American society.

Another research about incest is conducted by Molako in his Master of Art’s dissertation from University of Pretoria with the title “*The Influence of Incest on Adolescence: a Social Work Perspectiv.*,” The other onne is Benita Battis’s thesis from University of Johannesburg with the title “*Hypnotherapy and Childhood Sexual Abuse: the Experience of Adult Survivor.*” Both of them conducted social research. The difference is their approach. Molako analyzes his dissertation from a social worker approach. While, Battis uses the dicipline study of psychology.

F. Conceptual Framework

The relationship between literary works and society can be explained by applying the theory of sociology of literature by Taine. The theory concentrates on the relation between real phenomena in the society and in the literary works. Since the theory puts literary works as a mirror and depiction of the society, sociology of literature tries to explain the works in relation to the real situation at the time of what embedded in the works.

Sapphire's *Push* is a novel which portrays the condition of African Americans in 1980s. It was the time when unemployment burst out in Harlem. Many African American families faced shocking structural challenges in poor inner-city areas. The poor and poverty phenomena caused poor physical and mental health, overcrowded housing, despair, family dissolution, post-traumatic stress disorder, school dropout, teen pregnancy, interpersonal violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and abuse, especially the case of incest.

Thus, in this research sociology of literature approach is applied to analyze *Push*. It focuses on the relation of the factual events in the society and what happens in the literary works. This research is conducted to find the representation of incest in African American society at that time.

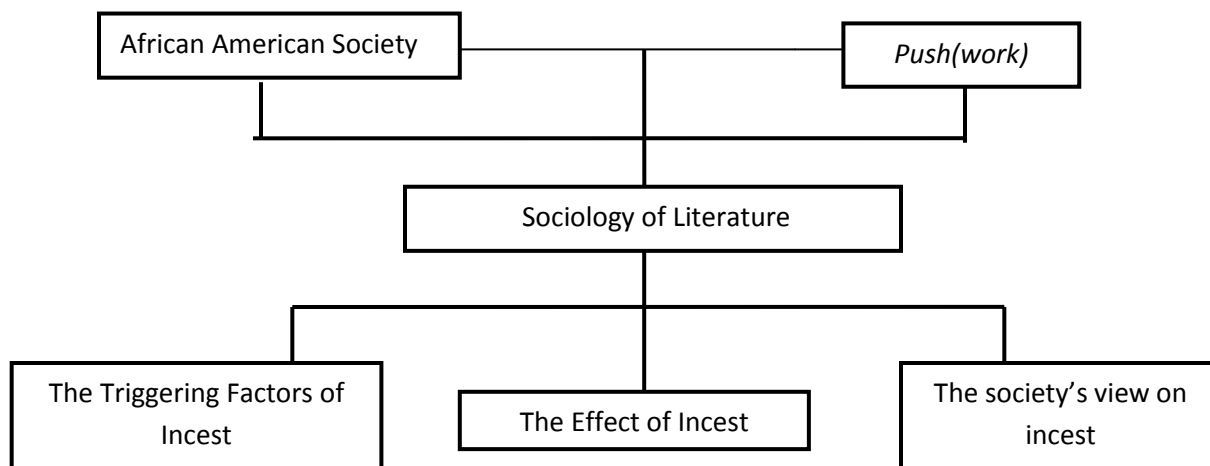


Figure 1: The Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

A. The Research Design

To gain the purpose of this research, a research design is vitally needed. The study in this research is related to the phenomena of incest in a certain society and specific era. Therefore, this research's primary data are words, phrases, and sentences taken from Sapphire's *Push*. This data cannot be evaluated numerically. To help analyzing them, a qualitative research design is the most appropriate for this research.

In general, a qualitative research specifies narrative or textual descriptions of the phenomena under study (Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009: 7). A qualitative perspective assumes that knowledge is constructed through communication and interaction; as such, knowledge is not "out there" but within the perceptions and interpretations of the individual. In short, knowledge is constructed or created by people. A qualitative perspective assumes that the researcher cannot analyze and understand an entity by analysis of its parts; rather, he/she must examine the larger context in which people and knowledge function. The concept is called the social construction of reality (Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009: 166).

The continuance of child sexual abuse manifested in many forms in many societies has caused countless story of survivors' experiences. Sapphire's popular novel, *Push*, must have been read by many people world wide. In fact, this novel is

one of the examples of the practice of incest in society. It adds the magnitude of the incest survivor's problems. To help scrutinizing this problem better, Swingewood's book related to sociology of literature theory provides useful techniques to read this text from the angle of the society, the writer and the work in blended ways.

To analyze the data from Sapphire's *Push*, the researcher implements content analysis. This is a technique of gathering and analyzing the content of a text. The content refers to words, sentences, etc. as a means of communication using various media such as novels. This is nonreactive, so there will be no influence from the researcher in the process of placing the data (Neuman, 2000: 292). The researcher takes distance from the content of this text. What matters is how the data reflect and relate to the social texts.

B. The Data Source and Sources of Data

The major source of the data of this research is Sapphire's *Push* published in United States in 1996 by Knopf Publisher. This novel provides main data in some significant expressions of words, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs related to incest. These data show how a certain incest case works in this text. After that, the data become the bases in analyzing incest cases toward the victim and the surroundings of this text.

The secondary sources is a book written by Swingewood. This book contains the sociology of literature theory. The researcher also uses Kahn's *Science and Aesthetic Judgement: a study in Taine's critical methods*. Besides, the researcher also uses

other literary sources that help her to understand Swingewood's concept of the sociology of literature better.

C. The Research Instruments

In this research, the primary instrument is the researcher herself. Qualitative research requires the researcher as the instrument (Vanderstroep and Johnstone, 2009: 211). Her interpretation is needed to read and analyze the collected data taken from Sapphire's *Push*.

The researcher used a data sheet as the secondary instrument for facilitating the work during data processing. After reading the text, the researcher then used the sheet in order to record all the data found in the text. The form of data sheet is presented in the figure below:

Table 1: The Data Sheet

Category	Sub Category	No. Data	Data	Page
Emotional Reactions	depression	1)		
	shame			

D. The Data Collection Technique

The data collecting technique used in this research was library technique (Sudaryanto, 1992: 41-42). Library technique is the technique that uses written sources to get the data which support the data analysis. The steps of the data collection are as follows.

1. The researcher read the whole novel text carefully and observed the words, phrases, and sentences in the novel based on the objective and the formulation of the problem.
2. The researcher recorded the data which were related to Sociology of Literature theory. The data were regarded to have setting, time, and milieu which were used as important aspects in the data analysis.
3. The obtained data were classified based on the categories of the occurrence of incest's classifications.
4. The researcher made a data coding to make the classification easier and to make a precise description of each data characteristic.

E. The Data Analysis

Bogdan and Biklen (2007: 187) define qualitative data analysis as “working with data, organize it, breaking it into manageable units, synthesizing it, searching for patterns, discovering what is important and what to be learned, and deciding what researcher will tell others.” Qualitative researchers tend to use inductive analysis of data, meaning that the critical themes emerge out of the data (Patton, 2001: 44-45).

The data was done by applying substantive theories on the sociology of literature and on incest in African American society to describe the formulation of the problem mentioned before. To analyze the data, the researcher went through the process as follows:

1. The first thing done by the researcher after collecting the data was observing the data to get the relevant data and reduced the irrelevant ones and classified them into certain classifications and found the incest experience to get the triggering factors, effects and solutions of incest.
2. The next step was analyzing the data using the theory of sociology of literature and some related theories and also considering the context of situation.
3. Then, the researcher formulated interpretation of certain categories of incest experience to answer the research question.
4. The next stage of analysis was applying trustworthiness during the analysis and interpretation process.
5. The final step was drawing conclusions from the results of the analysis.

F. The Trustworthiness

A qualitative research is commonly evaluated based on the concept of trustworthiness (Lincoln and Guba in Miller, 2009: 83). In a qualitative research, evaluation considers the rigor of the study (i.e., validity and reliability).

Ensuring that study findings are trustworthy and reflect the truth is an essential component of a qualitative research. This requires an ongoing examination by the investigator throughout the research process. Sources of error can occur in sampling, data collection, and analysis. Factors to evaluate throughout the process include the integrity of key informants in providing accurate data, the generation of codes or units of analysis that represent data accurately within a social context, and the interpretations of the data to determine whether they represent true meanings.

The criteria to check the trustworthiness are given by Moleong (2001: 173) who declares that there are four criteria used in qualitative research: the degree of credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. In this study, the research used the degree of credibility to establish the trustworthiness. Credibility is reached by implementing and demonstrating that the processes in holding the research are plausible. Credibility could be achieved by carrying out the triangulation technique applied by Moleong. He further writes that triangulation employs something outside of the data to verify the data or to compare them (2001: 178).

According to Denzim (in Moleong, 2001: 178), there are four kinds of triangulation technique: data source, method, researcher or observer, and theory. Here, the researcher employed data and theory triangulation. Data triangulation is the technique used in the research in which the researcher uses some data sources to collect the same data in the same method (Sudaryanto, 1992: 35). Theory triangulation was done by employing substantive related theories.

In addition, the researcher conducted peer discussion with her friends who had the same background knowledge. Last, the researcher also used expert judgment to check the trustworthiness by discussing the data of the study with the lecturer who understands the theory of Sociology of Literature, who is also her first consultant, Ari Nurhayati, M. Hum.

CHAPTER IV

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis of this study is stressed on the view that literary texts are social documents. This chapter presents the findings of the research and the discussion of the data on the incest in African American society in 1980s.

There are three objectives in this research. The first is to find out the causes of the incest in African American society portrayed in *Push*. The second is to reveal the impacts of incest in African American society portrayed in *Push*. The last is to define the society's views on the incest as seen in *Push*.

A. The Causes of Incest

As previously mentioned, incest refers to sexual relationships between members of the nuclear family. There are some factors causing the occurrence of incest: socioenvironment, family-of-origin, family system, and individual psychology (Trepper and Barret, 1989: 23). Those supporting factors of the occurrence of incest are found in *Push*.

1. Socioenvironmental factors

Socioenvironmental factor here refers to the immediate physical and social setting in which people live or in which something happens or develops. It includes the culture that an individual is educated or lives in, and the people and institutions with whom they interact (Casper and Barnett, 2001). In short, it covers all aspects

related to social life and the environment where people live. At least, there are three dimensions estimated as the contributing factors to Jones' family's practice of incest: (1) acceptance of male supremacy and power, (2) social isolation, and (3) living in a community that tacitly accepts incest or other forms of child abuse.

a) Acceptance of male supremacy and power

Only under Carl supremacy does Mary become objects of exchange. Carl's supremacy determines that he has the right to give Mary for marriage or concubinage, while Mary has no comparable rights either in Carl or in herself. The committed relationship without marriage between Carl and Mary makes Carl do anything he wants because he is not bound by the law of legal marriage. In Jones's family, the abuse that is practiced by Carl is not only in the form of physical abuse where Carl hits, kicks, and slaps Mary, but also does a verbal abuse. In the forms of psychological abuse, for example, Carl deliberately rapes Precious in front of Mary. Since Precious was a baby, Carl and Mary never had sex anymore.

"You got it? I ask.

"No."

"How you know?"

"We never did, you know –"

I look at Mama like she fucking crazy! What she talking about?

"You know," she repeat. "What you got to do to get it."

"He never fuck you," I say shock.

(Sapphire, 1996: 97)

The datum above recounts the time when Mary tells Precious that Carl dies of AIDS.

When Precious asks if Mary is also infected AIDS from Carl, Mary says no because she never has sex with Carl anymore.

In the form of verbal abuse, Carl frequently curses, yells, and says harsh words to Mary. “He say shut your big ass up!” (Sapphire, 1996: 148). Carl says it when Mary tries to prevent him when Carl wants to rape Precious in front of her for the first time.

Carl’s powerful position in Jones’ family is also seen from the way he can come and go freely. Carl comes in at night, eats at home, and does something there and goes wheeling again. “... Carl come in the night, take food, what they money is, fuck us bofe”(Sapphire, 1996: 96). The datum implies that Carl not only come to the apartment to visit Mary, take food, ask for money, but also torturing Mary and has sex with her.

b) Social Isolation

Precious says that the neighbors living in Harlem is enclosed each other. She said that no one else has a reason to ring the door bell to visit, except crack addicts who often knocked on the door to request to get in the building. “The buzzer ring. I wonder who it could be. Don’t nobody ring our bell ‘less it’s crack addicts trying to get in the building. I hate crack addicts. They give the race a bad name” (Sapphire, 1996: 15). Crack addicts often disturb residents in Harlem. Precious hates them very much for the crime that they have made and for causing the image of black people getting worse (Sapphire, 1996: 15). Another part of the novel also narrates the social interaction in Harlem. “I think some of the girl sat the Advancement House know I am ... ampositive. I mean I wifout trying some of they bizness. They never was too friendly; since Mama come wif her news, they even less friendly” (Sapphire, 1996:120). The datum shows that Precious's neighbor in Advancement House is

never too friendly to her. It strengthens the indication that Harlem's social interaction is enclosed. They never care about each other. Their carelessness is also shown in Precious's narration "Why no one put Carl in jail after I have a baby by him when I am twelve? Is it my fault because I did not talk to police?" (Sapphire, 1996:137). The dialogue clearly illustrates that there is no one around Precious who cares about and reports the crime that is done by Carl even though they know that Precious gets pregnant and gives birth to Carl's daughter.

The first person that obviously knows about Precious's pregnancy and childbearing is Mary. The second is Precious's neighbor in apartment. The third is a social worker who interviews Precious and records the data of Precious's first child's birth certificate by asking the detail of Precious's family-of-origin and asking who the father of Precious's child is. However, the social worker just say "shame...shame..." to seek Precious without further action by reporting the crime to the police so that Carl repeats his rape action to her daughter, which results in Precious's second baby for him.

As described in the novel, Harlem becomes the center of the drug trade. Social effects of crack associate with three factors: the growth of the culture of drugs, prostitution and drugs and the collapse of family and community functions. In this novel, it shows how Harlem grows into a closed society and the individual. Precious tells how neighbors become alienated each other and the feeling of safety is replaced with fear and suspicion. Neighbors do not greet each other. The children, including Precious, are not allowed to play freely outside the house. Beliefs that have become

core values in Harlem began to erode as the desire of each individual to protect themselves and their families from adverse effects of drug abuse and rampant social disease caused by the crack. Based on the exposure of the conditions, Harlem residents at that time tend to be anti-social. Precious's family almost never interacts with others, including their neighbors in the same apartment building. This condition makes their life very individualistic and isolated.

The alienation from each other in the neighborhood where Precious lives make everything that happens in a family unknown to the other neighbors. The closed condition is what makes Carl so easily do violence to Mary and Precious, including an act of incest to Precious. Precious and social environment in which the family live is negating their role as a watchdog and controllers of the behavior of individual citizens in the region that are considered to be a domestic private sphere. This isolation also makes Carl not bear deterrent and repeatedly rape Precious which leads up to pregnancy and has two children from Precious's relationship with her father. This is because Carl feels that there is no threat of social sanction that he will receive from the neighbors, as well as the legal sanctions that he will receive as far as Precious or Mary did not report his actions to the police.

(c) living in a community that tacitly accepts incest or other forms of child abuse

A growing sex lifestyle in the neighborhood where Precious lives is a typically non marital relationship, promiscuity, prostitution, having more than one partner, and life as a married couple with no biological ties lawful marriage. It can be found on the

datum that shows the fact where Precious finds that there are many victims of sexual assault and incest in incest survivors community where Precious “Listen to girl rape by brother, listen to old woman rape by her father; don’t remember till he die when she is 65 years old” (Sapphire, 1996: 142). In the other examples, Rita, Precious’s friend in Each One Teach One, has been on street to prostitutes since she was twelve (Sapphire, 1996: 105). Another friend, Ronda, is also the victim of incest just like Precious. Rhonda’s brother rapes her since she was a child; “... her mother fine out and put Rhonda, not brother, out” (Sapphire, 1996, 105). Meanwhile, having only non marital relationship is conducted by Carl and Mary. Those facts illustrate that Harlem is a place where sexual assault, deviant sexual behaviors, and violence are common phenomena.

By the explanation, it can be concluded that those factors affect the vulnerability of the occurrence of incest. The poor environment mixed with poor economy contributes to the occurrence of incest. The circumstances are closed to the outside world adding to the vulnerability of follow-abuse, especially sexual abuse occur in the Precious’s family without having to worry that Carl’s actions will be condemned by the people around him. The poor social interaction and the development of bad sex lifestyle among Harlem residents make the vulnerability of the act of abuse in a family occur in Jones’s family.

c) Family-of-origin

As it is previously mentioned, family of origin refers to the significant caretakers and siblings that a person grows up with, or the first social group a person belongs to,

which is often a person's biological family or an adoptive family. In short, the term "Family of Origin" refers to the family that people grew up in – their parents and other people who lived with them during part of their childhood. These people strongly influence who people become. Characteristics within the family of origin (i.e., lack of respect, conflict, restricted expression of affect, poor conflict resolution skills, etc.) may be important factors in determining who commits incest (Hanson, 1994: 164).

In Jones's family, there are at least two people significantly influencing the occurrence of Precious's incest experience. They are Carl Kenwood Jones and Mary L. Johnston, Precious's father and mother.

a) Father's background

Carl, as described by Precious, is a cruel and temperament person. He does not hesitate to hit a woman, in this case his wife and daughter. Carl's personality as a black man living in Harlem certainly cannot be separated from the milieu that formed him since he was a child up to adult. "Crackers is the cause of everything bad. It why my father ack like he do. He has forgot he is the Original Man!" (Sapphire, 1996: 38). As pointed out by Precious, Carl is an alcoholic as same as the crack addicts who frequently riot in Harlem. His hobby of drinking alcohol has made his temperament often unmanageable, especially when he is angry. Carl's condition implies that he has a weak personality.

It is very important to look how Precious's parents grow up and what kind of conditions in the environment that shape the character and personality as it is today.

The first is Carl, Precious's father. Carl, as Precious mentions in *Push*, was born in Bronx. The environment where Carl lives at the child age are in line with the condition in Bronx at the same time that is described by Olmsted (1998) who explains as follows.

The history of the Bronx during the 20th century may be divided into four periods: a boom period during 1900–29, with a population growth by a factor of six from 200,000 in 1900 to 1.3 million in 1930. The Great Depression and post World War II years saw a slowing of growth leading into an eventual decline. The mid to late century were hard times, as the Bronx declined 1950–1985 from a predominantly moderate-income to a predominantly lower-income area with high rates of violent crime and poverty. The Bronx has experienced an economic and developmental resurgence starting in the late 1980s that continues into today.

Carl has lived in the neighborhood where a crime rate and poverty rates were high. Besides, Carl has also grown in the care of parents who experience post trauma after the Great Depression and post-World War II. Those two traumatic experiences make the big influence to the way Carls's parents and other parents raise their Children. Carl and his friends always look to go out on their own, to defy their parents in one way or another, and be a little reckless and a little dangerous. Carl was also not going to be disciplined by his parents that much because his parents did not want to inhibit their kid, since they were inhabited by the rigors of the Great Depression and World War II. He has a tendency to drift together anyway. Since the biological imperative is to establish his own identity and break away, the first step is to socialize with people of his own group. Since he was now under less supervision, he tended to be reckless and take more risks. Upbringing and past experiences form Carl's characters as

someone who is tough, familiar with violence, out of control, knows no empathy, and has self bad personality.

The explosive growth of population in Harlem, in line with the lasting trauma pressure from the Great Depression, has influenced the way parents raise their children. They grow and mingle freely and less monitored well. The liberation that parents give to them is actually seen by children as an act of uncaring. They grow into wild, dissident, and brutal people. They gather in small groups and look for fun with a criminal act. "... Carl come in the night, take food, what they money is, fuck us bofe"(Sapphire, 1996: 96). From the passage above, Carl not only comes to apartment to visit Mary and to take food, but also has sex with his daughter and tortures them, Mary and Precious, which is termed by Mary as "fuck us". These conditions are used as settings for living past Carl, coupled with rampant promiscuity crack addicts in Harlem in his adult life, making Carl grow as a rude, abusive, and predatory person.

1) Mother's background

The second person having a great role in the occurrence of incest in Jones's family is Precious's mother. In *Push*, Precious's mother is portrayed as an obese woman who force-feeds Precious and devours food herself. She also verbally and physically abuses her daughter and steals the money from the welfare that should be used to provide for Precious's first child who gets Down Syndrome.

Mary is born in Greenwood, Mississippi. The history of Mississippi greatly affects the thought of Mary's life. Discrimination in getting an access to education

facilities for black children at that time made her has a bad view of education to black children. It affects the pattern of her foster to Precious. Mary does not prioritize education to Precious as a way to improve their quality of life. Mary's growing historical background in the very poor areas that face starvation makes her so greedy with foods and very obsessed with money. It can be seen from the way Mary glorifies welfare and her dependence on it. Meanwhile, in the time Jim Crow Laws was practiced, the people whom Mary lived with had grown up accustomed colonized. Carlisle and Golson in *America in Revolt During the 1960s and 1970s* (2008: 190) explain the key concept of Jim Crow Laws as follows.

The term Jim Crow designated the system of institutionalized discrimination against African Americans that southern states began to use in the late 1890s and practiced until the late 1950s. The laws that constituted the backbone of the Jim Crow system were designed to keep whites and blacks as separate as possible in public spaces such as schools, modes of transport, and accommodation facilities and to prevent African Americans from exercising their right to vote. Colonization and discrimination that they receive every time has constructed their thinking that the actions they receive is something that is not wrong. They eventually get used to the pain suppressed. They had befriended familiar with the violence that they received. Conditions of daily life have made them think of it as something normal, that there is nothing wrong with a condition in which when there is someone who is weaker, then it cannot be blamed if he becomes the object of oppression of the stronger party. This is what constructs Mary's mindset that if there are weaker people, she would do the same. Mary imitates her experience that happened in the past that it is okay for Mary that Carl commits abuse to Precious just the same as the Jim Crow Laws acts against Black people.

From the two exposure background and an explanation of the origin of Precious's parents, it can be stressed that a person's life experience can be an asset in shaping the character and the nature of that person. Precious lives between two parents with similar background that blend to be the form of characters who are hard and regard violence as a usual act. The two abusive characters of the father and mother combine in a family in which both raise Precious as same way as what they were formerly raised.

In summary, the historical background of the life of Precious's parents makes them grow as persons who are very familiar with violence. Poverty has made them rude. Patterns of upbringing their parents in the past are also reflected back in the way they are mothering Precious currently. Historical background which is reflected in the self development of Precious's parents precisely becomes the reason of this family vulnerability to the acts of incest.

b) Family system factors

According to Bowen (1993: 306), family is a system in which each member has a role to play and rule to respect. Members of the system are expected to respond to each other in a certain way according to their role, which is determined by relationship agreements. Within the boundaries of a system, pattern develops as certain family's behavior which is caused by and causes other family member's behaviors in predictable ways. Maintaining the same pattern of behaviors within a system may lead to not only balance in the family system, but also to dysfunction. Bowen states that family system describes some over-all characteristics of human

relationships, the functioning within the nuclear family system. In a nuclear family, according to Bowen (1993: 306), there is at least three subjects to be explained to have their own contributions to make this dysfunction: a father, a mother, and children.

In Jones's family, like an ideal condition of a family system, each member of the family (Carl, Mary and Precious) should come with his/her responsibilities and rights. Under ideal conditions, Carl generally is a money earner. He pays a role to provide his family with the necessities of life, such as wholesome food, clothing, and home in a safe neighborhood. Then, Mary's role is as a caretaker for Precious as she needs the nurturing care of her mother such as acceptance, love, understanding, and teaching. The ideal pictures of family roles are indisputable in Jones's family.

a) Father's dysfunction

The first subject who shows the dysfunction roles in Jones's family is Carl. Carl fails to do his role as a father who should provide his family's needs. As mentioned in the previous discussion, Carl was unemployed. He does not play his function as the bread winner, while Mary and Precious hang their lives on welfare funds. Carl who is an alcoholic is unable to meet his needs to buy an alcohol with his own money. He often asks Mary to give him money to buy it. Mary is the one who always supports Carl's will on money, food, and others, of course, from the welfare funds. Another example, Carl fails to do his role as a family's protector. In fact, Carl becomes the perpetrator of abuse for Precious and Mary.

b) Mother's dysfunction

The second subject who fails to do the role in Jones's family is Mary. As a mother, Mary fails to play a role as a caretaker in Jones's family. Mary is like Carl who likes to do violence to Precious. Mary also exploits Precious to do all the chores such as cooking, washing, cleaning, and shopping for daily needs. As a mother, Mary should also be responsible for protecting Precious from the criminal action. Yet, once again, she fails at this point.

Mary and Carl do a non-marital relationship. Because of their vulnerability to break, Mary wants to do anything to maintain the integrity of her relationship with Carl. Mary will not hesitate to blame and condemn anyone who can damage her relationship with Carl. She can perceive anyone as a destroyer of her family including Precious. Mary regards Precious as a rival at home. Mary is silent when Carl does sexual abuse to Precious. On the other hand, Mary is too afraid if her rebuke to Carl would make him angry and leave her.

In *Push*, Mary is portrayed as unloving, hostile and unable to establish healthy relationships with her husband and family members. Precious is growing with the feeling of being abandoned and abused by her mother. Mary is also absent in fulfilling her nurturing role in the family. In Jones family, Precious's role is as a "little mother" for her father and mother. Precious has to do a great part of the housework.

When the first time the incest occurs, Mary is aware of the incest but fails to protect Precious due to her lack of sensitivity as a mother. Mary is afraid to avoid

Carl from raping his daughter because she is more afraid if what she does makes Carl angry and the unity of the family will be broken, and especially she is afraid that her relationship with Carl will be destroyed. Mary is so dependent to Carl. Psychologically, Mary is worried if she will lose Carl. It dominates her feeling more than her concerns for Precious's future after the incest occurs. Mary's act raises the big question why she is so scared to prohibit Carl to further commit incest to Precious. Mary is afraid with Carl not because she is afraid if Carl does not support her financial needs, but Mary is afraid if she prevents Carl to rape Precious, Carl will beat her, kick her and torture her mercilessly. In addition, as a mature woman, Mary relies on Carl to satisfy her sexual needs and desires. She lets him do incest to Precious because she thinks that what she does will preserve the stability and unity of her relationship with Carl. Mary's absence is a malfunction condition of her role as a mother in Jones' family.

c) Child's dysfunction

Mary's treatment to Precious changes drastically after the rape. She blames and curses Precious as a usurper of her husband. Mary's resentment and anger to Precious is shown by treating her like a maid. Precious has to do chores such as cooking and washing clothes and kitchen sets. Furthermore, Mary also often tortures Precious by hitting, kicking and cursing her. Instead of protecting Precious, Mary tends to let the actions of incest conducted by Carl to Precious. Mary's fear to Carl is more dominant than her willingness to protect her daughter. As a mother, instead of educating Precious, Mary considers Precious as her enemy.

From the explanation above, Jones' family system does not ideally work. Carl and Mary cannot perform their roles, functions and responsibility as father and mother to Precious. Carl's dysfunction as a father and Mary's dysfunction as a mother have impacts on Precious. With the dysfunction of both parents, Precious herself also goes into dysfunction. Precious's dysfunction runs because her parents do not functions their roles properly.

To sum up, first, the relationship between Carl and Mary is weak because they do a non-marital relationship. It means the relationship is structurally weak. Second, from the relationship aspect among the family member, Carl and Mary do not take responsibility. Jones's family is seen to be dysfunctional family. Each family member's dysfunctions contribute to the occurrence of incest in Jones' family.

d) Psychological factors

Carl, who has traumatic experience from his childhood phase, is an authoritative person. Carl also has low self esteem and less self control. Those character is compounded by the habit of drinking alcohol.

As an authoritative person, Carl attempts to control his wife and child as his own personal properties. Carl tends to do whatever he wants. Carl always want to show his power over Mary. Carl's powerful feelings toward Mary appear because Mary highly relies on him. Mary is weak to prevent Carl to do anything against Precious and her. Carl's powerful feeling also appears because Mary still relies on him although Carl does not take his role as a money earner for Jones's family. There lies the 'greatness' of Carl. Furthermore, Carl's powerful feeling arises because as a child

Precious is powerless. In this position, Precious is clearly more powerless than Mary, so Carl feels more powerful when he treats Precious. This is why Carl feels more satisfied when having sex with Precious. Because if Carl does sexual intercourse accompanied by an acts of violence against Mary, Mary still does some fights, while Precious is unable to do any resistance.

Carl's authoritative style raises as the effect of his early childhood experiences and traumas. He has a bad experience as a victim of abuse. It is clearly mentioned by Precious (in Sapphire, 1996: 77) which realizes her incestuous relationship with her father as a copy behavior of sexual abuse and violence of black men from white men in the moment of the past by Carl:

“I think what my fahver do is what Farrakhan said the white man did to the black woman. Oh it was terrible and he dood it in front of the black man; that's really terrible. ... Farrakhan say during slavery times the white man just walk out to the slavery Harlem part where the niggers live separate from the mansions where the white people live and he take any black woman he want and if he feel like it he jus' gone and do the do on top of her even if her man there. This spozed to hurt the black man even more than it hurt the woman getting rape – for the black man to have to see this raping.”

The traumatic experience about sexual abuse makes Carl have a sexual motivation that is not directed at seeking gratification, but also committing an act of aggression or violence, just like what white people did on Blacks. Carl sees to have sex with a child as an expression of anger and revenge of his past then he allows himself to do the same thing to his daughter.

What Carl does to Precious is the same as an act that a white man does to a black woman in front of her man, black male. “My Fahver don't see me really. If he did he would know I was like a white girl, a real person, inside. He would not climb on me

from forever and stick his dick in me ‘n get me inside on fire, bleed, I bleed then he slap me.” His action is in an effort to cope with his unbelievable sexual traumatic experience, by imitating white acts to blacks and taking abusive role to them. Carl tries to combat feelings of powerlessness as a black male among white people by reversing roles in order to become the powerful one rather than Precious and Mary.

Alcohol is another factor that plays a role in the Carl's act of incest. As previously mentioned, Carl often comes into Mary's apartment under the drunken condition. In fact, under his unconsciousness, Carl could do anything, including doing the physical abuse and sexual abuse to both Mary and Precious. The situation that is under the influence of alcohol makes him have poor control toward himself to act beyond the limits of the norms prevailing in society. The unconscious mind under the effect of alcohol combined with the traumatic event of the past makes Carl have less self control.

Psychologically, Carl has low self-esteem and poor social skills. From the aspect of low self esteem, Carl is easily influenced by the behavior of the brutal youth in the Bronx and the bad characters of Harlem’s crackers and drug abuser. He cannot filter which are good and not. From the aspect of poor social skill, in socializing with others, Carl also tends to be introvert. He never has a conversation with the neighbors. He just spends the afternoon and evening to fill the need of his addiction to alcohol. By his isolation, Carl suffers from psychological distress and emotional isolation. Apart from the face of the crush of poverty, Carl also faces himself as an unemployed man who makes himself helpless and has no self-esteem in front of a

woman. He does not have self-fulfilling life, feel chronically resentful towards others and lack the ability to share their emotions with other adults. He needs to be cared by people around her. He feels powerless in his outside world or in his adult relationships. Carl has grown up in society where sexual abuse or physical abuse massively exists. Carl becomes a perpetrator in an effort to cope his traumatic experience, by taking an abusive role. He abuses Precious to meet the needs that relate to acceptance and approval and to enhance the sense of personal worth, powerful feeling and self-esteem.

Carl victimizes Precious and Mary in trying to combat feelings of powerlessness. He does intercourse to Precious in attempt to play his roles in order to show himself and others his ability to be powerful one rather than the victim. By becoming victimizer, Carl reenacts the characteristics of his own victimization in an attempt to restore the feeling of being the controller.

B. The Consequences of Incest

The consequences of incest depend on the rape that occurs. However, incest may have multiple impacts to the children. As it is mentioned in previous chapter, the impacts of incest are classified in six categories; those are emotional reactions, self-perception, physical and somatic effects, effects on sexual functioning, interpersonal relating, and social functioning. In *Push*, only three of those categories are found: emotional reactions, self-perception, physical and somatic effects, and interpersonal relating.

a. Emotional reaction

According to Candand et. al. (2003: 4) emotional is commonly thought to be the obverse of reason, a separate faculty, usually one to be guarded lest it interfere with the rational aspects of the mind and thereby subverts motivation or values (Candand et. al., 2003: 4). Emotional reaction refers to a reaction which involves emotion. It can be in the forms of depression, shame, anxiety and fear, anger and guilt, betrayal, lost, and grief, and difficulties in sustaining positive experience.

1. Depression

Incest gives various consequences toward the victim. Depression is one of them. According to the research conducted by Harvard Medical School (2005), depression is the most commonly reported psychological symptom in those who have experienced incest. Instead of being alert and vigilant to stress or strong emotions, a depressed person is often chronically lethargic and apathetic or agitated and anxious (Harvard Medical School, 2005). According to Wasserman (2011: 3-69), the symptoms of depression are usually in the forms of feeling down or having a bad day, persistent sad and irritable mood, and loss of interest or pleasure in activities once enjoyed. Those forms are also found in what happens to Precious during depression. The data below are some quotations in *Push* about how the depression happens to her.

“Everyday I tell myself something gonna happen, some shit on TV I’m gonna break through or somebody gonna break through to me – I’m gonna learn, catch up, be normal, change my seat to the front of the class. But again, it has not been that day” (Sapphire, 1996: 5 - 6).

The datum shows Precious's responses toward the day which she thinks it will go into trouble. At first, she thinks that she will spend the day as well as a normal person in general, but once she tries to do that, she always fails. The perception in Precious herself is a feeling down and prejudice that she will only spend her day in bad situations.

Another datum shows how Precious would begin the day in a gloomy mood and would get into troubles with her teacher in the school over unimportant things.

"First day he says, "Class turn the book pages to page 122 please." I don't move. He says, "Miss Jones, I said turn the book pages to page 122." I say, "Mutherfucker I ain't deaf." The whole class laugh. He turn red. He slam his han' down on the book and say, "Try to have some discipline." ... I look at him 'n say, "I can slam too. You wanna slam?" 'NI pick up my book 'n slam it down on the desk hard. The class laugh some more. He say, "Miss Jones I would appreciate it if you would leave the room right NOW" (Sapphire, 1996: 4-5).

Because of her depression, Precious usually loses her self-control. In the depressed situation, for example if she finds a difficulty in learning the subject, she usually makes arguments to her teacher. Precious's arguments usually escalate to screaming matches and ended with her being given a punishment by the time she makes trouble in the class. Precious began to outbursts of shouting, complaining, unexplained irritability, or crying. She would often respond the teacher with comments that are added with the term "mutherfucker". According to Jones (2009: 21), the word "mutherfucker" is a term that at the time of post World War II was used almost exclusively by adult black males and that "would get you smacked hard if you dared to use it in school or in your home." This is Blacks way of appropriating the time-honored tradition of resistance and defiance in black neighborhoods. It refers to a

mean, a vicious person, despicable or any particular difficult and frustrating situation (Anonymous, 2012).

Precious's depression leads her to have trouble in concentrating during the class. She has poor concentration on math and other subjects including in literacy. She is unable to write and read properly. Precious's condition is also match with the reality of many Black children at 1980s. Black inner-city youth were found to have school dropout rates ranging from 40% to 60%, with high rates of functional illiteracy (Reed in Shaw, 1999: 152). "Principal call Mama and who else I don't remember. Finally Principal say, Let it be. Be glad thas all the trouble she give you. Focus on the ones who can learn Principal say to teacher (Sapphire, 1996: 41). The quotation stresses that Precious is also dropped out from school because of her troublemaking act and for her illiteracy.

As previously discussed, it can be said that Precious's depression starts after she is raped by her father and continues to get pregnant, and significantly increases after being dropped out from school. Things are not the same for her since that event. After being dropped out of school, Precious has longer time to stay at home. It also means that she get more abuse from her mother. Since incest happens in Jones's family, Precious's mother, Mary, continues to victimize her. It makes Precious have to face alienated life because the one who should love her and to be loved by, victimizes her harshly and hates her so bad. In another situation of being abandoned and unwanted by others, Precious feels sad because she never finds somebody who loves her. She

has no close friends whether girlfriends nor boyfriends (Sapphire, 1996: 43). She always thinks that nobody wants her.

In another part in the novel, another example of depression is also found. In some similar moments in *Push*, Precious says that she is very sad and starts to cry because of her ugly baby. She goes down to more depression because she finds her baby getting Down syndrome. She cries for herself because no one ever holds her before. She cries when her mother screams at her. Precious feels that when Mary shouts and angers at her, her mother is like going to kill her.

“Something tear inside me. I wanna cry but I can’t. It’s like something inside me keeps ripping but I can’t cry. I think how alive I am, every part of me that is cells, proteens, neutrons, hairs, pussy, eyeballs, nervussistem, brain. I got poems, a son, friends. I want to live so bad. Mama remind me I might not. I got this virus in my body like cloud over sun. Don’t know when, don’t know how, maybe hold it back a long long time, but one day it’s gonna rain. I start to cry but it’s ‘cuz I’m mad” (Sapphire, 1996: 150).

Precious’s depression gains her to feel irritable, sad, and lose interest in activities that once gives her pleasure. She has no passion to continue her life. She intends to isolate herself. Her depression leads her to feel an extreme sensitivity to rejection or failure.

As school year progresses, Precious starts to feel worse and she worsens about herself. She feels embarrassed over the way she looks, and she feels intimidated by her friends who always bully her. The strong feelings of self-hate and worthless start to envelop her. Among the most common subjective complaints are “I feel so stupid” (Sapphire, 1996: 39), and “I just HATE myself” (Sapphire, 1996: 43).

The worst state of a person suffering from depression is the recurrent thoughts of death or suicide. “Sometimes I wish I was not alive. But I don’t know how to die” (Sapphire, 1996, 36). Bergen et. al. (in Dulcan, 2010) in book *Dulcan’s Textbook of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* also shows phenomenon of suicidal thought and action of a sexual abused girl who suffers from depression. Bergen’s statement is proposing an idea that symptoms of depression happens to people who suffer from the same experience as Precious. It can be inferred that the symptoms happening to by Precious is a thing that psychologically can be understood because Bergen strengthens the fact about the vulnerability to commit suicide.

This is in line with what Bergen et. al. (2003) think that an association between abuse in childhood and subsequent suicidal behavior are overrepresented among adolescent inpatients with a history of sexual abuse. Further, sexually abused girls may be particularly at risk for suicide attempts, and being independent from other psychopathology.

Ahead of the birth of her second child, Precious feels that she should move on and continue her life for her children. She pines for her mother, but tries to stay strong for her daughters. Precious tries to overcome her depression by writing. Her writing skills are already much better since she was taught by Miss Rain. She tells what she feels to Miss Rain, her teacher at school. From Miss Rain, Precious gains support to be strong and optimist that she can relieve her depression. Sometimes, the people who can help one’s problem are they who are on the same boat with him/her. In other word, in trying to help Precious to overcome her depression symptoms as a reaction

of incest trauma, Rita and Miss Rain suggest Precious to join Incest Survivor Community. That is the effective way to help Precious. The group members are capable of sharing their problems and communicating their feelings in a structured group setting. Precious is able to socialize and interact with individuals of the various age and culture but they are able to identify and share their same problems. According to Vincent (2010: 29), the group created cohesiveness that allows group members to feel comfortable and secured. There is a feeling of trust among the group members and the facilitator.

The findings about depression as the consequence of incest in *Push* can be associated to reality. Based on a research about the impacts of incest, it is found that poor urban Black children show higher rates of psychopathology and psychiatric impairment than all other ethnic groups. These problems range from low esteem to clinical depression. Black juvenile delinquents are found to have higher rates of depression and other psychological and neurological symptoms than do comparable White juvenile delinquents (Dembo in Shaw, 1999: 152).

2. Shame

According to Fenichel (in Kluft, 1990: 146), shame is an attempt to hide and to refuse to look because of a constant fear of being criticized, ostracized, or punished. In *Push*, this symptom happens to Precious as her motive of defense to hide a defective sense of self and to keep her shameful secret from others that she is being raped by her father.

In expressing her feeling of shame, Precious tends to be an introverted person in school. It is because she perceives herself as "damaged goods". The shame feeling that grows in her self as a consequence of Precious's self-perception who consider herself are dirty and stained makes Precious felt so helpless and lose self-esteem. Usually, Precious expresses embarrassment when she had to deal with the crowds, especially at school. She chooses to sit on the seat at the rear corner of the class to avoid orders from her teacher to go and stand in front of the class.

The feeling of shame makes Precious lose motivation to search for help on her father's barbaric actions. Her feeling of shame makes Precious choose to keep silent, the action that precisely makes Carl feel safe from people's threats because of his actions raping her daughter is not known by anyone except Mary who also equally bear the shame from the occurrence of incest that happens in their family.

When the shame feeling appears, someone automatically wants to hide away from the view of others. In these conditions, being alone or isolating herself is felt better for Precious. However, the loneliness itself does not really take a help to Precious to avoid the people who see her with accusing eyes. On the circumstances, Precious's shame feeling grows up until she herself feels disgusted with herself when the people around her look at her.

One of the events where the shame feeling is arises is when Precious has to answer her teacher's questions. She becomes stuttered and do not know what to say. In this condition, she chooses to remain silent. Precious chooses to shy away from the teacher that may ask her questions to be answered because she worries if she unable

to answer. In the depressed condition of her shame, Precious often calls herself stupid, ugly, and so on to express her “damaged good” feeling.

Finally, Precious realizes that her embarrassment only produce pain and she tends to do what she could do to stop it and keep her not to be depressed by her embarrassment. This impulse makes Precious reluctant and avoid dealing with other people who would ignite the events that will make her feels shame, pick away from the crowd as if nothing happened, or bury the shame feeling by busying herself with making arguments in the classroom by refusing to follow the teacher’s instructions. Even so, however, Precious still has the urge to get over the shame feeling that she felt. Her effort gains momentum when she joins in Miss Rain’s class.

Precious chooses to grow beyond the limit narrow that had built up due to her feeling of shame. She decided to fight against it and was determined to develop herself and start to fight the self-loathing feeling that had been dominating over her.

3. Anxiety and fear

The third form of emotional reactions is anxiety and fear. According to Paludi and Denmark (2010: 163), anxiety is a mood state characterized by fear and worry in anticipation of future stressors. The fear rises when she feels certain smells, thoughts, touches, sounds, sights, etc. The victim tends to avoid anything which reminds them to the abuse such as people, place, situations, etc.

Precious feels anxious when she is on the stressful situation. It comes when she is interviewed by social worker and counselor. She is anxious when the interview session reminds her recurring thoughts, memories and flashbacks of the incest trauma

which are distressing. She is also afraid if she will lose control when she sick of thinking about the abuse. It also happens when she has to talk in front of the class to read or write on the board. In other words, Precious suffers from social phobia by her anxiety. She becomes very anxious about what other people may think of her, or how they may judge her. She fears performing her self in front of people because she fears that she will act in an embarrassing way, and other people will think that she is stupid, foolish, inadequate, etc. In the case of avoiding such situation as much as possible, she tends to isolate herself in school by sitting on the corner of the class. By those daily anxious responses, in fact, the biggest anxiety that becomes the significant reason for the anxiety disorder felt by Precious is anxiety about her future and her children's future. She is also afraid if the rape will happen again to her.

Long after the assault, Precious continues to experience fear triggered by things that reminds her of her father's rape. The first example which reminds her toward the sexual assault is the touch of someone to her (Sapphire, 1996: 20).

"She touch of side of my face. "I'm so sorry Ms Jones, so so sorry." I try to turn away from her Mississippi self but she in the bed now pulling my chest and shoulders into her arms. I can smell her lotion smell and Juicy Fruit gum breath. I feel warm kindness from her I never feel from Mama and I start to cry. A little at my legs, the black-blue on the side of my head where Mama kick me, but Buttler don't see it and she squeezing me there. I crying for ugly baby, then I forget about ugly baby, I crying for me who no one never hold before. Daddy put his pee-pee smelling thing in my mouth, my pussy, but never hold me."

The datum shows how Precious refuses to be touched by a nurse when she is in a treatment after delivering her baby. The smell and touches from the nurse reminds her

to her father who has raped her. She cries and flashes back to the moment of the abuse.

Another example is Precious's rejection when a counselor interviews her, especially when the counselor asks her about her father (Sapphire, 1996: 181).

"... I tell counselor I can't talk about Daddy now. My clit swell up I think Daddy. Daddy sick me, disgust me, but still he sex me up. I nawshus in my stomach but hot tight in my twat and I think I want it back, the smell of the bedroom, the hurt – he slap my face till it sting and my ears sing separate songs from each other, call me names, pump my pussy inout in outawww I come. He bite me hard. A hump! He slap his hips into me HARD. ..."

From the quotation, it can be seen that it is a painful situation for Precious to answer the counselor's question about her father. When Precious talks to other people about her father, her memory takes her to the moment of assault: smells of the bedroom, touches, slap, and the detail of the assaulted. "I hate myself when I think Carl Kenwood Jones. Hate wif a capital letter. Counselor say, "Memories." How is something a memory if you never forgit? But I push it to the corner of my brain" (Sapphire, 1996: 181). Precious tries to take her in the situation where nothing reminds her of her father. When she perceives that she is being threatened, she automatically gets ready to show her hates and tries to make trouble to distract the situation. The fear is followed by anger that leads her to fight.

In the way to fight fear and anxiety feeling, Precious joins class in Each One Teach One, a school for marginal teenager's survivors. Precious tries to overcome her fear by actively discussing the topic of the study with her teacher and classmates. She also begins to have more intense interaction with her friends. Day by day she has

more self confidence. Other's help to Precious is seen from the figure of Miss Rain. To overcome Precious's and other students' problems of anxiety and fear, Miss Rain practices teaching methods which make all the class members participate in the class forum. She asks her students to make a circle so everybody can see one another. She also asks each student to introduce herself in front of the class and develop the 'each one teach one' method along the running of the class meeting. This method requires every student to demonstrate his/her writing and reading skills by telling stories about her personal experiences in front of her friends. At first, Precious is so nervous and very scared if she could not able to do so. As previously discussed, Precious feels insecure because of her inability to write and read well. Moreover, she has to tell the story about her everyday life that it is something pathetic and embarrassing to share.

From the activities with her friends in the class, Precious learns how to overcome her fear and anxiety. However, she is only able to do it in front of Miss Rain and her classmates who have the same family background and inability to write and read well as her. Beyond that condition, to reduce her pain of anxiety and fear that often suddenly appear, Precious often imagines and fantasies on fun things to take her mind out from the feeling of being threatened.

4. Anger and guilt

The fourth form of emotional reaction is anger and guilt. As previously mentioned, for many survivors, anger is an emotion that is hidden behind the feelings of guilt and depression (Bass and Davis in Lloyd, 1993: 192). In *Push*, Precious's feeling that accompanies her being threatened by someone else or situation can cause

anger. In a normal situation, it is good because it gets Precious to strongly feel an injustice that she tries to correct. Mostly anger in Precious comes up when her self-esteem or their values are threatened.

The first form of anger comes when Precious does not meet her expectation and the reality she faces. In *Push*, Precious feels angry about her life because as a teenager she should be able to treat her hair in salon. She also should have a boy friend and have a intimate relationship with him and be content to hang out with her friends as what teenagers do in the teens age. Unfortunately, she doesn't get all the pleasures of adolescence age that she should get. "I ax my muver for money to git my hair done, clothes. ... now every time I ax for money she say I took her husband, her man. Her man? Please! Thas my mutherfuckin' fahver!" (Sapphire, 1996: 33). The datum shows that every time Precious asks Mary for money to get her hair cut off or to buy clothes, Mary refuses it and says that Precious takes her man. It makes Precious angry to Mary not only for saying Precious taking her man, but also for the money that Mary has that is a welfare money for taking care of her and Little Mongo, Precious's Down Syndrome daughter. She is angry because she thinks that she has a right to use that money.

Another Precious's form of anger is when she rejects to do something that she cannot do properly. This anger is based on trying to avoid feeling guilt and shame. "First day he say, "Class turn the book pages to page 122 please." I don't move. He say, "Miss Jones, I said turn the book pages to page 122." I say, "Mutherfucker I ain't deaf" (Sapphire, 1996: 43). The datum explains Precious's responses toward her

teacher's instruction to turn the book on page 122. She does not do that because for her every number looks the same. She cannot differentiate numbers. Precious expresses anger to cover up the guilt and shame for not being able to follow her teacher's instruction.

Anger can be displaced to avoid the more painful feelings of humiliation and embarrassment.

“I think I AM MAD. ANGERREEY angerry very mi life not good.i got dizeez. Ms Rain say NOT dizeez I say whut is it then. I Talk angr to Ms Rain she say u notice yrspelin change wen yuhavfeelins not tal bout in book she say i am ntdyslex mine that say its emoshunal disturb lets talk bout it. I was fine til HIV thing. She say i still fine but prblm not jus HIV it mama Dady ...” (Sapphire, 1996: 111).

Precious is angry about her life which is full of problems. She gets HIV after she gives birth of the second baby. The virus is transmitted from her intercourse with Carl who dies because of the virus. Precious chooses to expresses anger to cover her bad feelings of vulnerability and helplessness because anger is a more comfortable emotion for her to feel when the pain comes.

Then, Precious's guilty feeling comes from the fact that in social norm, incest is still being a taboo to do. Precious feels different from other people because she does the 'weird' thing for people in common. She knows that incest is not only taboo for her surroundings, but also it is forbidden in God's rule. She knows that it is a sin. However, she also knows that killing her baby when she is pregnant is also a sin.

e) Betrayal, loss, and grief

According to Penfold (1998: 147), in understanding their betrayal and experience their anger, survivors begin to grieve for what has been lost as a result of their abuse

and its after-effects. In *Push*, the betrayal is seen on the betrayal about Precious's trust to her parents. After the act of incest, Precious feels betrayed because she cannot rely on her father and her mother also does not protect her. The betrayal can be defined from the fact that Precious's parents do not take any responsibility about their own functions as a mother and a father for Precious who should protect her.

Penfold (1998: 147) adds that the lost feeling include loss of the feeling of being special, lost youth, lost physical or mental health, lost marriage or other relationships, lost jobs or careers, lost friends and relatives, etc. Penfold said that at this stage, survivors sometimes feel that 'lakes of tears' will never end. From all the lost feeling above, Precious has to face the feeling of losing her relationship, teenage age, friends, and opportunity to study. The datum below shows how Precious feels that she is no longer worth while for others, especially for her mother and father (Sapphire, 1996: 39).

"I feel so stupid sometimes. So ugly, worth nuffin'. I could just sit here wif my muver everyday wif the shades drawn, watching TV, eat, watch TV, eat. Carl come over fuck us'es. Go from room to room, slap me on my ass when he through, holler WHEE WHEEE! ..."

The lost of the feeling special is the symptom that Precious has to face as the effect of Mary's bad mothering and Carl's rape to her. Mary also forces Precious to do the things based on Mary's command, while her father comes to their apartment only to have sex with her and abuses her.

Precious also suffers from the lost youth, lost relationships, lost friends, and lost opportunity to go to school (Sapphire, 1996: 78-79).

DrMizMs Rain,

All yr I sit els I nevrlrn
 (all years I sit in class I never learn)
 bt I gt babe agn Babe bi my favr
 (but I got baby again Babe by my father)
 I wish i had boy but I don
 (I wish I had a boyfriend but J don 'i)
 ws i had su me fucks a boy lke
 (wish I had excuse me, fucks a boy like)
 or girl den i fel rite dat I have to qkskool
 (other girls then I feel right that I have to quit school)
 ...

Precious writes a letter to Miss Rain and tells her teacher about her feeling. She feels that she learns nothing from the class that makes her change her mind to get out from her father's sexual abuse. She thinks that she never learns from the past, so she has the second baby from her father. Precious loses her chance to have a relationship with a man because men disgust her. Precious is also expelled from school because of her pregnancy that makes her lose opportunity to get a certificate to apply for a job.

In another form of lost and grief, another part of the novel shows that Precious is also lost physical health. As previously mentioned, Precious is HIV positive. It makes her lose her spirit to continue her life. In this part of life, Precious feels that she is in the point of hopelessness and feeling a grief. The grief is experienced as the betrayal of trust by others, the loss of respect for her self, a feeling of powerlessness or self-blame for not doing something about the rape and abuse, and the repression of anger toward those upon whom Precious depends. Another datum shows that pregnancy makes her lose her flawless stomach. "I stand in tub sometime, look my body, it stretch marks, ripples. I try to hide myself, then I try to show myself" (Sapphire, 1996: 36). Pregnancy makes her have stretch mark over her stomach. It

makes her remember all the time that she has born babies and reminds her of her father and the abuse she gets. She is in grief because her father does not any responsibility to take care of their children and her after she deliveries their babies.

b. Self perception

Self-perception is a mechanism for controlling an individual's perceptions and behavior, based on his/her interpretations or events and experience (Bem in Riding and Rayner, 2001: 32). It refers to physical shape and size, intelligence, personality, and every aspect of human personality. Every person has some types of self-perception. People might see themselves as clever or stupid, beautiful or ugly, introverted or extroverted. For common people, their self-perception is usually positive toward themselves. However, an incest survivor's perception development develops negative self perception toward his/her perception. At the worst condition, the survivor will consider him/herself negative (Spiegel and Cardena in Battiss, 2004: 49). According to Battis (2004: 47), self perception is related to: the self, the abuse, and the perpetrator.

1. the self

According to Battis (2004: 48), an incest survivor tends to build negative concepts of self-image. The positive feeling becomes degraded by sexual trauma. In *Push*, the first negative perception toward the self is that Precious feels stupid. "I wanna say I ain't stupid but I know I am so I don't say nothin', 'cause also I don't want her to go hit me, ..." (Sapphire, 1996: 16). Precious actually attempts to redeem

the feeling of being stupid, but her powerlessness against the torture she receives from her mother makes her feel really stupid.

The second example of negative self perception is a feeling of worthlessness. Precious feels worthlessness because of the occurrence of incest she faces: the feeling of being at a damage situation, the feeling of being a dirty woman, and the feeling that she does not have a future. To gain Precious's feeling of worth, Miss Rain, her teacher, says to her that she is born for purpose and reason (Sapphire, 1996: 84). By Miss Rain's motivation, her friend's support and the positive influence from the incest community group, Precious begins to make a better appreciation for her self and gradually thinks that she has to face the future in optimistic way.

Another negative self perception is Precious's feeling of hopelessness. "Sometimes I wish I was not alive. But I don't know how to die. Ain' no plug to pull out. 'N no matter how bad I feel my heart don't stop beating and my eyes open in the morning" (Sapphire, 1996: 36). Her feeling of hopelessness leads Precious to think that it will be better if she is never alive. It affects the way she looks for the future. She does not have passion to plan her life that she will face. At this point, Precious thinks that she is useless. She feels powerless to support herself, moreover to support and raise her two children. Precious feels that she cannot promise any future for herself and her children. All she perceives about future is a mess.

The last, Precious's negative self perception leads her to isolate herself from others (Sapphire, 1996: 4).

“I jus’ fall in Mr Wiener’s class sit down. We don’t have assigned seats in Mr Wiener’s class, we can sit anywhere we want. I sit in the same seat everyday, in the back, last row, next to the door. Even though I know that back door be locked. I don’t say nuffin’ to him. He don’t say nuffin’ to me, now.”

Precious chooses to sit in the back in the class. She thinks that if she isolates herself from her friends in class, she can hide her personal problem, especially her pregnancy. Pregnancy makes her feel being a 'damage goods', dirty, and other negative perceptions against herself. She thinks that she is a great sinner who has broken God’s norms and norms prevailing in society. For what she does in incest, Precious takes for granted that the society isolates her.

Precious continues her life in pessimism. This condition remains the same until she gets motivation from Miss Rain to get her life alive. Miss Rain helps her to overcome her negative perception toward the self that makes her confined in a misery that obstructs her to struggle. To overcome the negative self perception regarding the self, Miss Rain gives Precious awareness that no one can help her to get out of the difficulties of her life except herself. Precious also develops her better perception of the self since she joins incest survivor community. In that community, Precious meets many people who suffer from the similar problems that shows her how important for an incest survivor to be optimistic through life after the past destroys them.

In the worst conditions of the feeling of hopelessness, a victim can commit suicide as a last resort because of the depression she feels to face life. Precious herself for several times thinks to end her life, but she does not commit suicide. However, the support from her school and the incest community gains her confidence back to life and hope again.

2. The abuse

Basically, an incest victim will experience pain and hurt after the act of incest. In *Push*, Precious also feels the effects of posttraumatic syndromes as the events that make her very frightened of everything that reminds her about the incident of incest. Precious becomes so sensitive to the touch and the treatment of others against her because of the feelings of insecurity when the incident happens to her again. As a incest victim, Precious certainly does not want to experience a similar incident.

However, the interesting thing about the perception of the incest victim in this novel is that Precious does not experience the trauma of intercourse. Precious has the desire to satisfy her sexual needs with a man she loves. Yet, the reality says a different thing. Precious feels no man is willing to approach her. The only man who wants to have sex with Precious is her father. At the same time, the burst of the desire to have sex after she is a teenager is unstoppable in Precious's mind. This is what makes her always remember Carl when the desire to have sex appears. There is an aspect that makes Precious want to experience incest again; it is a sexual intercourse. Although she feels the pain and trauma as the effect of incest, over time during her growth, she begins to find pleasure in sex. That is the reason why she hopes to repeat the incest.

In *Push*, Precious feels confused with herself about her own perception regarding the abuse. The confusion is due to the pleasure that she feels from a sexual intercourse. An aspect that needs to be stressed about Precious is that she wants the

intercourse, while in fact there is no man who wants to approaches her except Carl.

This is in line with the datum below (Sapphire, 1996: 121).

“As someone who is raped, of course Precious feels pain as the result of the sexual intercourse. However, biological reactions experienced by Precious says another. She feels a sexual arousal and pleasure just like women generally when they sensate having sex. "I nawshus in my stomach but in my hot tight twat and I think I want it back, the smell of the bedroom, the hurt - he slap my face till it sting my ears and sing songs separate from each other, call me names, pump my pussy in out in out in out awww I come. He bite me hard. A hump! He slams his hips into me HARD. I scream pain he come. He slap my thighs like cowboys do horses on TV. Shiver. Orgasm in me, his body shaking, grab me, call me Fat Mama, Big Hole! You LOVE it! Say you love it! I wanna say I DO. I wanna say I'm a chile. But my pussy popping like grease in frying pan. He slam in me again. His soft dick. He start sucking my tittie.”

Precious enjoys every touch that Carl gives to her in her intimate organ. In fact, Carl's touch makes her feel pleasure that leads her to have an orgasm. Precious is ashamed and hates herself for being unable to hide the expression of sexual arousal and stops her orgasm in front of Carl. When Carl finds her enjoying the intercourse, Precious tries to deny it, but biological reactions in her body welcomes it. In *Push*, Precious says that she wants that moment again. “... I want fuck feeling from Daddy...” (Sapphire, 1996: 60). Precious thinks that she wants that feeling again. She thinks that her father is the only one who wants to sex her up and fulfils her needs of sex.

In conclusion, as an incest victim, Precious does not want to experience the incest acts again. However, as a teenager who is conscious with her ability to respond any sexual desire, Precious wants to get the needs to have sex. Precious' needs to have an intercourse can only be filled by Carl.

3. The perpetrator

The perception of the survivor toward the abuser is hatred. For Precious, her father is someone who fails to control his behavior and emotion. Carl, for her, is only trying to satisfy his lust without taking responsibility for the consequences that Precious would face as a result of the acts of incest. Precious reveals that when Carl rapes her, he does not really see her as a 'Precious' who is black, but Carl always imagines that he rapes a white girl. It is related to his past trauma. He experienced a deep trauma in the slavery period in which he had to see black women raped by white men. The pain and trauma of the past makes Carl vent his frustration about the past by doing the same to his own daughter and imagines that the woman he raped is a white girl.

It is quite a dilemma felt by Precious that the father, who should be her protector, the provider of her security and caring for her, becomes a 'canibal' to her. When her friends tell about their good fathers, Precious is reluctant to even think about Carl because every time she thinks of her father, Precious feels a heavy burden. It blows her tiny mind. "Everything feel like it is too big for my mind. Can not nuffin 'fit when I think' bout Daddy" (Sapphire, 1996: 65). The datum shows that thinking of her father makes Precious feel the pain.

As an incest victim, Precious is confused about her perception toward the Carl. In one side, Carl is someone that she hates and wants to forget. In the other side, Carl always dangles in her mind. It is the agonizing feeling that comes along with the satisfaction of the requirement for sex when Precious remembers her father. "My clit

swell up I think Daddy. Daddy sick me, disgust me, but still he sex me up” (Sapphire, 1996:120). The data show that in the incest incident, Carl often accompanies his incest act with some beatings and other violent act as an expression of power that is dominant over Precious. While Precious feels powerless to resist, and in this case Precious is powerless against her father. Precious cannot fight her father back. The novel shows an incest incident as a painful moment for the victim of incest, and even though she wants to show the perpetrators that she is in pain and does not enjoying the action, her body's biological reaction cannot deny that she is able to respond to a stimuli and enjoy every touch that is given by the perpetrators. Precious even experiences peak pleasure when she gets an orgasm, no matter how she wants to deny it. This is what makes Precious confused in assessing Carl. There is so much anger. On the other hand, there is a feeling of longing of the Carl's existence for their sexual fulfillment.

c. Psychosomatic effects

During the sexual abuse, the incest victim learns to ignore his/her body and personal needs. In an extreme condition, the body is so alienated that the incest survivor does not feel any impulse to rest or sleep. According to Plotnik and Kouyoumdjian (2010: 486), psychosomatic symptoms are real and sometimes painful, physical symptoms, such as headaches, muscle pains, stomach problems, and increased susceptibility to cold and flu, that are caused by increased physiological arousal that results from psychological factors, such as worry, stress, and anxiety. Some of the more common stress-related or psychosomatic symptoms are muscle

pain and tension, fatigue, and eating problem. Moreover, Curtois (in Barrett, 2004: 50) adds some of the more psychosomatic symptoms: the repetition of the trauma as experienced in dream, fantasies, and sudden behavioral changes. In *Push*, the forms that are experienced by Precious are headache, stomach problem, and eating problem.

Precious often feels painful physical symptoms after the moment of incest along her growing life. She feels headache and pain in her head. She also feels stomachache whenever she remembers the abuse. Another effect of incest on Precious is uncontrolled diet that causes her to get obesity. Mary often forces Precious to eat although she is so full. "I keep eating till the pain, the flat gray light, and Mama is a blur; and I just fall back on the couch so full it like I'm dyin 'and I go to sleep, like I always do; almost"(Sapphire, 1996: 23). She cannot deny the power of her mother's orders because she is afraid of being tortured and getting more abuse from her mother. She also follows her mother's orders to eat while holding the pain in his stomach because of glut.

d. Interpersonal problems

Incest survivors may have difficulties to relate and trust people (Curtois in Barret, 2004: 57). Curtois adds that interpersonal problems develop in one or more of the four categories relating to relationships: general relationship difficulties with both men and women, uncertainty as experienced in intimate or committed relationships, problems with parents and other family members and authority figures, and difficulties with parenting.

The most common thing done by Precious is her inability to have a good relation and to control her emotions toward men and women she meets. She is unable to control her emotions; however, she tries to behave politely in front people. Unfortunately, her effort to repress it failed. "Your attitude is one of total Claireece uncooperation - ..." (Sapphire, 1996: 16). When Precious's teacher admonishes her for not making noise in class, Precious impatiently grumbles to her teacher and she often gets out from class after the 'trouble' she makes. Precious finds her self difficult to establish good relations with both men and women in general. It is not limited to people who treat her badly, but also to the people in her family, especially to Mary, her mother. Precious experiences so many acts of torture committed by Mary. Incest victims will necessarily experience lack of harmonious relationships with parents and families (Sapphire, 1996: 10).

Outside the house, Precious finds it difficult to get along because she feels being different from others. She is shunned by her friends. She thinks that everybody hates her because she is ugly and has dark skin. "Claireece laffig is so ugly she ugly" His fren 'say, "No, that fat ugly bitch is crying." Laff laff" (Sapphire, 1996: 13). It makes her feel unwanted.

Precious prefers to be alone in her class. She always takes a seat in the back corner of the class. Anti social image becomes rampant because the people around her are always bad in her mind. Precious feels that not only the people around her who do not want her, but also the educational institutions and the people in school treat her with the utmost cruelty, laughing and insulting her mercilessly. "I always did

like school, jus' seem school never did like me." "Kinnergarden and first grade I do not talk, they laff at that" (Sapphire, 1996: 40). Precious has to undergo heavy days in public schools. She is always becoming a laughing stock of her friends. When she sits down on a bench anywhere near her friends, they always take a distance from her, and when she switches to another bench, her friends laugh at her (Sapphire, 1996: 41). Her uncontrolled temperament and difficulty in controlling emotions often make teachers mad at her, until Precious herself considers that her teachers hates her.

The second problem is a problem in intimate or committed relationships. Precious never has a close relationship to a boy. Incest makes her a teenage mother which makes her look like an old woman with big body shape. She is overweight. No guy wants her. It makes her feel so alienated and 'dirty'.

The third is the problem with parents and other family members and authority figures. After the incest happens in Jones's family, Precious's relationship with Marry gets worse. Mary likes to abuse her daughter, while Precious feels betrayed because her mother is absent in protecting her from her father's act of incest.

The last is difficulties with parenting. Precious becomes a mother at the age of the beginning of teens. The first child, Little Mongo, is raised by her grandmother. Precious feels guilty because she cannot breastfeed her child since Mary avoids her to do that. On the other hand, Precious hates her first child since the child is born with Down Syndrome. It goes for a while until she gives birth to her second child. Precious's thought is changed after she realizes that her children are sources of strength for her. She fights back from adversity for the sake of her children. She does

not want to be a bad mother as same way as Mary. Precious is eager to continue her education to obtain a certificate to apply for a job to get money to support herself and her children.

C. Society's Response on Incest

Incest is still being a taboo in society. Although it has existed for thousands of years, the impact has shifted over time. People rarely speak about incest; nevertheless, incest clearly happens around them. Indeed, instead of examining the actual occurrence of incest in either historical or contemporary groups, this part specifies on the subject to discuss how society responses toward incest, the victim and the perpetrator. By knowing society's response toward incest, how the society's values and norms develop and change to response the taboo phenomenon can be revealed.

The first point is the society's response toward the victim. In *Push*, Precious still has to struggle for herself without the support of the surroundings and environment. People around her, especially her mother, do not concern with what happens to Precious. Her mother feels hurt because of her husband. Furthermore, society marginalizes Precious. The effects are not only the incest toward the survivor that leads her to isolate her self, but also the way society isolates her. There is no boyfriends and girlfriends who want to be Precious's friends. The people around Precious make her as an object of mockery and ridicule.

Precious's neighbors know that she is pregnant. They know that abuse exists in Jones' family. They know that Precious is a victim of sexual abuse. However, they cannot do more than being conscious that Precious needs help (Sapphire, 1996: 10-11).

“Mommy please, please Mommy! Mommy! Mommy! MOMMY!” Then she KICK me side of my face! “Whore! Whore!” she screamin’. Then Miz West live down the hall pounding on the door, hollering “Mary! Mary! What you doin’! You gonna kill that chile! She need help not no beating, is you crazy!” Mama say, “She should tole me she was pregnant!” “Jezus Mary, you didn’t know. I knew, the whole building knew. Are you crazy--”
 “Don’t tell me nothin’ about my own chile”
 “Nine-one-one! Nine-one-one! Nine-one-one!”
 Miz West screamin’ now. She call Mama a fool.”

The datum shows how Precious's neighbor sees that Precious is pregnant. Miss West, Precious' neighbor, even says that the whole building know it. However, they do not report the abuse to the police. Miss West screams to others to call the police for the abuse that Marry does to Precious, not for the abuse conducted by the perpetrator that makes Precious pregnant. It implies that if Precious' mother and neighbor, the closest people around Precious, do not care about her, the other people possibly do not give better efforts and initiation to help Precious.

The people around her do not care about Precious. “No man was never nice like that to me before” (Sapphire, 1996: 12). The datum shows Precious's feeling when a nurse takes care of her in Harlem Hospital and that is the first time she gets good care from other people. The abandonment of people around Precious is not only shown by her neighbors but also from the police who interrogates her about her pregnancy. He only asks her questions then go away from her. “Somebody else there when I wake

up. It's like the police or something. Wanna ax me some questions" (Sapphire, 1996: 12). It indicates that police does not arrest Carl for his evil act. Police cannot arrest Carl if there is no one reports Carl's act toward Precious to them. They cannot do that unless Precious, as the victim, reporting it to them. Moreover, her school treats Precious badly. Since the school knows that Precious is pregnant, the school drops her out. Her friends ridicule and scorn her. The school principal even says that Precious is incompetent to follow the lessons in school. They assess Precious as a mentally retarded child that often makes a fuss. Society does not care about and take a pity to her. It implies that Precious, as a victim and incest survivor, has to struggle and face her problem by herself. The abandonment from the people around her makes it harder to survive in her life. She cannot lie on other people to take her out of the problem. She is the only one who can make herself stronger.

The second is the public's response toward the perpetrator. In *Push*, public does not give Carl punishment about the act he has done to Precious. Society does not isolate him like what society does to Precious. They do not give Carl a particular sanction either moral sanction of society or sanctions of Harlem government's law. This is because no one reports the rape to his crimes with his biological daughter. Society tends to abandon and keep silent to the occurrence. Mary, who is the mother of Precious, also refuses to blame Carl because she is more afraid of losing Carl than her pain to see her daughter being raped by her father. Carl himself, as a perpetrator, does not face any damage consequence in post incest events as experienced by Precious. In fact, the omission done by people around Precious that do nothing to

punish him makes Carl does not feel guilty for his actions against Precious so that he can freely do the action repeatedly to Precious until she bore him two children.

The third is the society's response on incest. Sapphire's novel seems to confirm the idea that the African American's perspective on incest is like the other societies which see incest as a taboo phenomenon. African American society, especially Harlem society as the setting of the novel, still sees incest as a shameful act (Sapphire, 1996: 14).

"She quiet quiet. Say, "Shame, thas a shame. Twelve years old, twelve years old," she say over 'n over like she crazy (or in some shock or something). She look at me, butter skin, light eyes – I know boyz love her. She say, "Was you ever, I mean did you ever get to be a chile?" Thas a stupid question, did I ever get to be a chile? I am a chile ..."

Incest is a shocking fact for people in common. This is what happens to a nurse from Harlem Hospital who helps Precious to make the birth certificate after she deliveries her baby. When the nurse asks Precious some questions to record her family of origin data, she is suddenly shocked and speechless for a while, especially when she finds the fact that Precious's father and the father of Precious's baby is the same person. Moreover, the nurse finds that Precious is still a teenage girl; a teenage mother of an incestuous daughter.

As mentioned in *Push*, the public's attitudes towards incest and the survivor are bad. The first line boundaries after Jones's family members who know the incest is Precious's neighbors. The neighbors who live in the same building as Precious know that Precious is pregnant. Yet, they do nothing to help her. Just like previously

mentioned, Harlem is typically an enclosed area with enclosed interaction of the residents.

Precious is not the only victim of incest in Harlem. There are a lot of victims who are struggle their self for incest recovery. This fact is strengthened by the existence of Incest Survivor Community called Survivor of Incest Anonymous. The meeting runs every Tuesday night at Seventh Avenue where Lesbian and Gay Center Building is (Sapphire, 1996: 140). Miss Rain and her classmates support Precious to joins the meeting.

To sum up, the explanation above shows that people who concern on that problem are still rare. Incest is still being a taboo in African American community. There are only a view people who pay attention to the problem of child abuse, especially incest. *Survivor of Incest Anonymous* and such incest survivor peer group exist because of the consciousness of incest survivors that incest act is a moral turpitude and will destroy the people who do that so they need to be recovered. The community stands on the initiative of the victim of incest. It shows that public does not pay a serious attention to this issue. This novel describes the response of social worker who frequently come to the Precious's apartment to provide social benefits that knows about incest and violence experienced by Precious but they do nothing. The police and the nurse who helps Precious record a birth certificate to Precious's baby also only mind their own business. It is the social apathy growing in Harlem neighborhood that ultimately makes these cases continue to recur.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion of incest in African American society as seen in *Push* there are three main points as the conclusions.

1. The Causes of Incest

The causes of incest are related to socio-environment, family-of-origin, family system, and individual psychology. The causes related to socio-environment are acceptance of male supremacy and power, living in a community that tacitly accepts incest or other forms of child abuse, and social isolation. The causes related to family-of-origin are one's past experiences that will shape his/her character into adulthood. The experiences on how a person was raised following environmental conditions can affect the patterns in fostering children when he/she becomes a parent. The cause related to family system is a family dysfunction. Each family member actually has the rights and responsibilities that must be fulfilled. If the role of family members as the ideal concept where each member does the responsibility and plays his or her roles is not implemented properly, there will be chaos in the family. It leads to a family distraction. The condition of the family that does not care about each other or members who do not perform their roles to protect each other can lead to be a damaged atmosphere and potentially cause the act of abuse. Parents' background and parental style may be important fact or sin vulnerability of sexual abuse, specifically incest. The causes related to individual psychology focus on the perpetrator who is

authoritative, has less self control, has low self esteem and has poor social skills . It leads the perpetrator to do the risks without paying attention to the norm or the law practiced in society.

2. The Effects of Incest

There are three impacts of incest seen in the novel. The first is emotional reaction. It appears in the forms of depression, shame, anxiety and fear, anger and guilt, and betrayal, loss and grief. The symptoms of depression are the lack of confidence, gloomy mood, losing control, facing troubles in concentrating during the class, and the recurrent thoughts of death or suicide. The symptoms of shame are being introverted person and isolation. The symptoms of anxiety and fear are in the form of avoiding anything which reminds them to the abuse such as people, place, and situations related to the occurrence of incest and anxiety about the future. The symptoms of anger and guilt are related to the perpetrator's act, the abuse, and the self powerlessness. The symptoms of betrayal, loss, and grief are related to the feeling of betrayed by the parents, the loss of childhood and teenage phase, opportunity and chance to reach the bright future, and grief about the abuse. The second is self-perception. It consists of the victim's perception toward the self, the abuse, and the perpetrator. The third is physical and somatic effects. Headache, stomachache, and obesity are the symptoms of physical and somatic effects found in the novel. The fourth is interpersonal problem. In *Push* interpersonal problems are found in the forms of difficulties in relationship with people, disability in committing relationship, problems with parents, and difficulties in parenting.

3. Society's Response on Incest

The society sees Precious as a person who suffers from long-term effects of incest. People around her make her as an object of mockery and ridicule. People around Precious see the perpetrator as the one who does not get moral by doing incest but they do not give him moral sanctions or government's law sanctions as the consequence of the act. By the two points above, generally society states incest as a taboo phenomenon, but they are not aware of the existence of the phenomenon of incest around them. Although society sees incest as a forbidden act, people still do not care and do not concern to it. This response comes from society toward the victim and the perpetrator. Finally, the way society response to incest victim makes her even harder and more difficult to recover herself from incest trauma. The existence of incest survivor group remains the fact that society is also absent to participate on the recovery of the incest survivor.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIXES I

Plot Summary

Push is a novel written by an African American woman writer, Sapphire, who has the same emotional experience of being a victim of her father's act of sexual abuse. Using narration and diary style, *Push* is written from the perspective of the first person, Precious, who is the incest survivor. Precious is an African American child who lives in a poor, harsh, isolated, black area in Harlem, New York with her overweight mother, who treats her like a servant.

Precious's father, Carl Kenwood Jones, is an alcoholic man who is also a rotating figure in her life. He does not live with Precious and her mother and only comes to their apartment when he wants to have sex with Precious. Carl begins to rape Precious when she is three. When the occurrence of incest happens, Mary is next to them and does nothing to avoid the shameful act. Precious gets pregnant and delivers her first baby when she is twelve. Her first child gets Down Syndrome. It makes her depressed. For years later, she gets another, which gets her suspended from school.

Precious's mother does not want her to continue her school. Precious stays at home for a while, the activity that she hates so much because the longer she stays at home, the more pain she gets from the abuse of her mother. Precious's life goes bad until she joins Each One Teach One, an alternative school which later changes her life. In her new school, her teacher, Miss Rain, treats her well. She is not only a teacher for Precious, but also a counselor, motivator, mother and friend for Precious. Miss Rain is an important character in the novel who helps Precious and her other students to heal their trauma of abuse and the pain of being minorities who get bad treatment from society. When Precious feels that her life is gradually better, she gets the news from her mother that her father dies because of HIV. The news is like a bomb of her happiness because it means that she must get HIV too. It is logic since the one who always has sex with Cars is not her mother, but her.

Again, Miss Rain and Precious's friends in Each One Teach One guide her to get out of the difficult situation. They motivate Precious to move on for the future of her children and her. She joins Incest Survivor and HIV Community because of their recommendation. Precious feels better since she joins those groups. She feels that she is not the only one who faces that problem. She starts to develop her career as a writer and continue her school to get a certificate that will help her to get a job.

A. The Causes of Incest

Category	Sub Category	No. Data	Data	Page
Socioenvironment	acceptance of male supremacy and power	1.1	.. I'm walking down the hall. .. And there is no, none, I mean none, mutherfucking air conditioning in this building	2
		1.2	It's so many different ways to walk the few blocks home. Turn a corner and you see all different. Pass 116 th n' Lenox, more abandoned land, buildings falling down. How it git so ugly is people throw trash all in it. City don't pick it up; dogs doo doo. Peoples wif no barroom piss 'n shit. Ugliness grow multiplied by ten. .."	119
		1.3	I know who they say I am - vampire sucking the system's blood. Ugly black grease to be wipe away, punish, kilt, changed, finded a job for	34
	Social Isolation	1.4	The buzzer ring. I wonder who it could be. Don't nobody ring our bell 'less it's crack addicts trying to get in the building. I hate crack addicts. They give the race a bad name	15
		1.5	I think some of the girl sat the Advancement House know I am ... ampositive. I mean I wifout trying some of they bizness. They never was too friendly;	120

			since Mama come wif her news, they even less friendly	
		1.6	Why no one put Carl in jail after I have a baby by him when I am twelve? Is it my fault because I did not talk to police?	137
	living in a community that tacitly accepts incest or other forms of child abuse	1.7	Listen to girl rape by brother, listen to old woman rape by her father; don't remember till he die when she is 65 years old	142
		1.8	Rita's daddy kill her mother in front of her eyes. Rita been on street selling pussy since she was twelve.	105
		1.9	Then Rhonda's brother raping her since she was a chile, her mother fine out and put Rhonda, not brother, out.	105
Family of Origin	Father's background	1.10	Crackers is the cause of everything bad. It why my father ack like he do. He has forgot he is the Original Man!	38
		2.1	... Carl come in the night, take food, what they money is, fuck us bofe	96
		2.2	Carl Kenwood Jones, born in the Bronx	14
	Mother's background	2.3	"Where your mother born," she say. I say, "Greenwood, Mississippi."	13

Family Systems	Father's dysfunction	3.1	<p>"You got it? I ask.</p> <p>"No."</p> <p>"How you know?"</p> <p>"We never did, you know –"</p> <p>I look at Mama like she fucking crazy! What she talking about?</p> <p>"You know," she repeat. "What you got to do to get it."</p> <p>"He never fuck you," I say shock.</p>	97
		3.2	He say shut your big ass up!"	148
		3.3	... Carl come in the night, take food, what they money is, fuck us bofe	96
	Mother's dysfunction	3.4	After I come home from hospital baby go live over on 150 th and St Nicholas Avenue with my grandmother, even though Mama tell welfare the baby live with us and she care of it while I'm in school. About three months after baby born, I'm still twelve when all this happen, Mama slap me. HARD. Then she pick up cast-iron skillet, thank god it was no hot grease in it, and she hit me so hard on back I fall on floor.	21
		3.5	"Bring me a few when you bring your plate back and hurry up 'fore I kick your stupid ass!"	23

		3.6	Why Mama never do anyting? One time I ax her, when I get up from her knocking me down, she say, That's what you here for.	25
	Child's dysfunction	3.7	My mama get checked 'n food stamps for me 'n Lil Mongo. But it's my baby. Little Mongo is money for me.	62
Psychological Factor		4.1	I think what my fahver do is what Farrakhan said the white man did to the black woman. Oh it was terrible and he dood it in front of the black man; that's really terrible. ... Farrakhan say during slavery times the white man just walk out to the slavery Harlem part where the niggers live separate from the mansions where the white people live and he take any black woman he want and if he feel like it he jus' gone and do the do on top of her even if her man there. This spozed to hurt the black man even more than it hurt the woman getting rape – for the black man to have to see this raping.”	77
		4.2	My Fahver don't see me really. If he did he would know I was like a white girl, a real person, inside. He would not climb on me from forever and stick his dick in me 'n get me inside on fire, bleed, I bleed then he slap me	35

B. The Effect of Incest

Category	Sub Category	No. Data	Data	Page
Emotional Reaction	Depression	5.1	Everyday I tell myself something gonna happen,	5-6

			some shit on TV I'm gonna break through or somebody gonna break through to me – I'm gonna learn, catch up, be normal, change my seat to the front of the class. But again, it has not been that day	
		5.2	First day he says, "Class turn the book pages to page 122 please." I don't move. He says, "Miss Jones, I said turn the book pages to page 122." I say, "Mutherfucker I ain't deaf." The whole class laugh. He turn red. He slam his han' down on the book and say, "Try to have some discipline." ... I look at him 'n say, "I can slam too. You wanna slam?" 'NI pick up my book 'n slam it down on the desk hard. The class laugh some more. He say, "Miss Jones I would appreciate it if you would leave the room right NOW	4-5
		5.3	Principal call Mama and who else I don't remember. Finally Principal say, Let it be. Be glad thas all the trouble she give you. Focus on the ones who can learn Principal say to teacher	41
		5.4	... No boyfriend no girlfriends. I stare at the blackboard pretending. I don't know what I'm pretending.	43

		5.5	Something tear inside me. I wanna cry but I can't. It's like something inside me keeps ripping but I can't cry. I think how alive I am, every part of me that is cells, proteens, neutrons, hairs, pussy, eyeballs, nervussistem, brain. I got poems, a son, friends. I want to live so bad. Mama remind me I might not. I got this virus in my body like cloud over sun. Don't know when, don't know how, maybe hold it back a long long time, but one day it's gonna rain. I start to cry but it's 'cuz I'm mad	150
		5.6	I feel so stupid	139
		5.7	I just HATE myself	43
		5.8	Sometimes I wish I was not alive. But I don't know how to die.	36
		5.9	Push the button, stupid, I tell myself. I push the button; I'm not stupid, I tell myself.	28
		5.10	.., feel like killing Mama.	66
	Anxiety and Fear	6.1	She touch of side of my face. "I'm so sorry Ms Jones, so so sorry." I try to turn away from her Mississippi self but she in the bed now pulling my chest and shoulders into her arms. I can smell her lotion smell and Juicy Fruit gum breath. I feel	20

			<p>warm kindness from her I never feel from Mama and I start to cry. A little at my legs, the black-blue on the side of my head where Mama kick me, but Buttler don't see it and she squeezing me there. I crying for ugly baby, then I forget about ugly baby, I crying for me who no one never hold before.</p> <p>Daddy put his pee-pee smelling thing in my mouth, my pussy, but never hold me.</p>	
		6.2	<p>... I tell counselor I can't talk about Daddy now. My clit swell up I think Daddy. Daddy sick me, disgust me, but still he sex me up. I nawshus in my stomach but hot tight in my twat and I think I want it back, the smell of the bedroom, the hurt – he slap my face till it sting and my ears sing separate songs from each other, call me names, pump my pussy inout in outawww I come. He bite me hard. A hump! He slap his hips into me HARD. ...”</p>	181
		6.3	<p>I hate myself when I think Carl Kenwood Jones. Hate wif a capital letter. Counselor say, “Memories.” How is something a memory if you never forgit? But I push it to the corner of my brain</p>	181
		6.4	<p>I'm lying on the floor shaking, crying, scared she gonna kill me.</p>	21
		6.5	<p>I'm scared.</p>	22
		6.6	<p>Eating, first 'cause she make me, beat me if I</p>	23

			don't, then eating hoping pain in my neck back go away.	
		6.7	I almost spit it, it make me so mad.	30
	Anger and Guilt	7.1	I ax my muver for money to git my hair done, clothes. ... now every time I ax for money she say I took her husband, her man. Her man? Please! Thas my mutherfuckin' fahver!	33
		7.2	First day he say, "Class turn the book pages to page 122 please." I don't move. He say, "Miss Jones, I said turn the book pages to page 122." I say, "Mutherfucker I ain't deaf	43
		7.3	I think I AM MAD. ANGERREEY angerry very mi life not good.i got dizeez. Ms Rain say NOT dizeez I say whut is it then. I Talk angr to Ms Rain she say u notice yrspelin change wen yuhavfeelins not tal bout in book she say i am ntdyslex mine that say its emoshunal disturb lets talk bout it. I was fine til HIV thing. She say i still fine but prblm not jus HIV it mama Dady ..."	111
		7.4	I didn't want to hurt him or embarrass him like that you know. But I couldn't let him, anybody, know, page 122 look like page 152, 22, 3, 6, 5 – all the pages look alike to me.	5
	Betrayal, Lost and Grief	8.1	I feel so stupid sometimes. So ugly, worth nuffin'. I could just sit here wif my muver everyday wif the shades drawed, watching TV, eat, watch TV, eat. Carl come over fuck us'es. Go from room to room, slap me on my ass when he through, holler WHEE WHEEE! ..."	39
		8.2	DrMizMs Rain, All yr I sit els I nevrlrn (all years I sit in class I never learn)	78-79

			<p>bt I gt babe agn Babe bi my favr (but I got baby again Babe by my father) I wish i had boy but I don (I wish I had a boyfriend but J don 'i) ws i had su me fucks a boy lke (wish I had excuse me, fucks a boy like) or girl den i fel rite dat I have to qkskool (other girls then I feel right that I have to quit school) ...</p>	
		8.3	I stand in tub sometime, look my body, it stretch marks, ripples. I try to hide myself, then I try to show myself	36
Self Perception	The Self	9.1	I wanna say I ain't stupid but I know I am so I don't say nothin', 'cause also I don't want her to go hit me, ..."	16
		9.2	What kinda shit is that! I didn't make no mistake unless it being born, 'n Miz Rain say I was born for a purpose, ...	84
		9.3	Sometimes I wish I was not alive. But I don't know how to die. Ain' no plug to pull out. 'N no matter how bad I feel my heart don't stop beating and my eyes open in the morning.	36
		10.1	I jus' fall in Mr Wiener's class sit down. We don't have assigned seats in Mr Wiener's class, we can sit anywhere we want. I sit in the same seat everyday, in the back, last row, next to the door. Even though I know that back door be locked. I don't say nuffin' to him. He don't say nuffin' to me, now.	4
		10.2	I try to forget I got baby in me. I hated borning the first one. No fun. Hurt.	65

	The Abuse	10.2	"I nawshus in my stomach but in my hot tight twat and I think I want it back, the smell of the bedroom, the hurt - he slap my face till it sting my ears and sing songs separate from each other, call me names, pump my pussy in out in out in out awww I come. He bite me hard. A hump! He slams his hips into me HARD. I scream pain he come. He slap my thighs like cowboys do horses on TV. Shiver. Orgasm in me, his body shaking, grab me, call me Fat Mama, Big Hole! You LOVE it! Say you love it! I wanna say I DO. I wanna say I'm a chile. But my pussy popping like grease in frying pan. He slam in me again. His soft dick. He start sucking my tittie.	121
		10.3	... I want fuck feeling from Daddy...	60
	The Perpetrator	11.1	Everything feel like it is too big for my mind. Can not nuffin 'fit when I think' bout Daddy.	65
		11.2	My clit swell up I think Daddy. Daddy sick me, disgust me, but still he sex me up.	121
		11.3	I think my Daddy. He stink, the white shit drip off his dick.	65
Psychosomatic effect	-	12.1	My head hurt.	42
		12.2	I keep eating till the pain, the flat gray light, and Mama is a blur; and I just fall back on the couch so full it like I'm dyin 'and I go to sleep, like I always do; almost	23
Interpersonal Problem		13.1	Your attitude is one of total Claireece uncooperation - ...	16
		13.2	Claireece laffig is so ugly she ugly" His fren 'say, "No, that fat ugly bitch is crying." Laff laff	13

		13.3	I always did like school, jus' seem school never did like me." "Kinnergarden and first grade I do not talk, they laff at that	40
				41

C. Society's View of Incest

Category	No. Data	Data	Page
Society's response	14.1	Mommy please, please Mommy! Mommy! Mommy! MOMMY!" Then she KICK me side of my face! "Whore! Whore!" she screamin'. Then Miz West live down the hall pounding on the door, hollering "Mary! Mary! What you doin'! You gonna kill that chile! She need help not no beating, is you crazy!" Mama say, "She should tole me she was pregnant!" "Jesus Mary, you didn't know. I knew, the whole building knew. Are you crazy--" "Don't tell me nothin' about my own chile" "Nine-one-one! Nine-one-one! Nine-one-one!" Miz West screamin' now. She call Mama a fool.	10-11
	14.2	No man was never nice like that to me before	12
	14.3	Somebody else there when I wake up. It's like the police or something. Wanna ax me some questions.	12
	14.4	She quiet quiet. Say, "Shame, thas a shame. Twelve years old, twelve years old," she say over 'n over like she crazy (or in some shock or something). She look at me, butter skin, light eyes – I know boyz love her. She say, "Was you ever, I mean did you ever get to be a chile?" Thas a stupid question, did I ever get to be a chile? I am a chile ..."	14

	14.5	Rita say we can get cross-town bus or walk. I say walk; so we walk over to Seventh Avenue where Lesbian	140
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